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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1921

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THE PARTIES COMPARED.

There is not today, as Premier Murray of Nova Scotia pointed out in a speech in Halifax this week, a single province in Canada with a Conservative government. Is the party which is not regarded by the people as qualified to conduct the affairs of a province any better qualified to conduct those of the Dominion? And is the Liberal party, which is the governing party in all but two of the provinces, not capable of administering Dominion affairs? It is only necessary to consider the circumstances attending the defeat of Conservative government in some of the provinces to see why that party should not have control in the larger field; and the record of the Liberal party between 1896 and 1911 is the answer to the question whether the Liberals are capable of conducting Dominion affairs. But for the fact that so many of the electors permitted themselves to be deceived in 1911 by appeals to prejudice and to the old flag the Liberals would not have been defeated in that year. They will now come back into power, and will show the same ability to conduct the affairs of the country as was shown prior to 1911. All over the country they are preaching the gospel of hope and of better days to come, while the Conservatives are appealing to fear, and seeking to frighten the electors into an endorsement of Tory policy and Tory methods. Remembering, however, that every province has rejected the Conservatives as a governing party, the appeal to fear will not influence the people, especially as they are utterly dissatisfied with present conditions and desire a change. The Conservative party would hold them in political bondage if it could, but they will throw off that yoke in federal as they did in provincial affairs. A paragraph from the Halifax Chronicle is worth quoting in this connection—

"There are two pages of fairly recent history which are enough to constitute a complete chart for the intelligent man or woman trying to decide for whom to cast a vote. The bare facts are not open to question. For Fifteen Fat Years, from 1896 to 1911, the Liberal Party governed Canada. Every person who reads these words knows whether those years were prosperous and happy ones or not. For Ten Lean Years thereafter, Hon. Arthur Meighen and the party he leads directed the policies of the country. If you seek a monument to that regime, look around you!"

KING AND THE TARIFF.

In his nomination day speech Hon. MacKenzie King dealt with the tariff issue. A report of his speech says:—"No legitimate industry," said Mr. King, "would suffer because of the Liberal tariff revision, though that revision would be downward. The government speakers preach ruin if the high protective tariff were changed," said Mr. King. "Why, then, does the high protective tariff not provide work for the unemployed and keep the factories busy?" The Liberals believe in revising the tariff in a manner to increase production by lightening the burden on implements of production in the basic industries and on the necessities of life. Who in the maritime provinces will object to such a revision of the tariff? Are there any who would prefer a tariff revision upward? That would make it still more difficult to get any imported goods, and the consumers here would be at the mercy of the protected manufacturers of other provinces. Our own industries would not be developed, because prohibitive freight rates imposed under Conservative rule would deprive them of a market large enough to warrant such development. The central provinces would have all the best of it and these provinces would not even have their ports developed, because export traffic would continue to go to American ports. The candidate who in these provinces advocates a high tariff is arguing against the interests of his own constituents. Such a revision as Hon. MacKenzie King proposes is the right policy for the country, and especially for these provinces. Whatever effect a high tariff campaign may have in Ontario cities it does not appeal to the people in this part of Canada. The country that sells must also buy, or there can be no prosperity in trade. High protection prevents the development of trade. It may benefit a few industries, but only at the expense of the consumer and of the country at large. Canada flourished under a Liberal tariff and will do so again.

What is the Conservative policy in relation to the port of St. John? Has anybody been told of large developments to match those at Portland, Maine?

MURDOCK TO LABOR.

Mr. James Murdock, the labor leader who is running as a Liberal candidate in South Toronto, and who is well known in labor circles in these provinces, has sent the following telegram to the Sydney Record in response to an enquiry:—"Your telegram received. I claim no right to dictate to any laboring man or other citizens as to how they should vote in the coming election, but personally I hold to the view that the best interests of all citizens of Canada at this time lie in the sinking of prejudice and selfishness and in uniting under a banner broad enough to promote the good of all races, creeds and classes in Canada. In my judgment a Farmer or Labor government or a combination of both, would be a class government, and no class government can be conducive to the welfare of the people of Canada as a whole. The present government, by inheritance, environment and inclination, is essentially a class government, representing and governing Canada for the special and protected interests of this country. If all those opposed to the government agree we have more than enough of such class government, the consistent thing would be to unite our forces under the banner of the Liberal party, which has proven its sympathetic ability to govern Canada for all classes, and thus ensure the defeat of the Conservative government at the coming election."

PERSISTENT QUESTIONS.

The following is a report of a portion of a speech by Premier Murray of Nova Scotia this week:—"Today in the northern riding of Cape Breton in which a number of those great industries, created under Liberal rule, were located, the Conservatives had not nominated a candidate. They could not find a man in that constituency bold enough to espouse the policy of Meighen. If the Conservatives of that county really believed the story of disaster which Meighen painted if the Liberals came into power, would they allow that county with so important industries to go by default? It was the same with regard to Inverness county, where there was the great mining industry—if they really believed that Liberal administration would ruin those industries, why were they not defending the county against such a disaster? The fact was that the Conservatives could not even fool themselves, and there was not anyone in those two counties bold enough to defend the Meighen policy in that regard."

A HINT FOR ST. JOHN.

Toronto is taking vigorous measures to cope with the unemployment situation. The Telegram says:—"The sub-committee on unemployment relief work is furnishing its report to the Board of Control today. The report states that there is \$14,700,485 worth of public works which may be gone on with this winter, including \$11,000,000 which the Transportation Commission requires to be done. As a large part of the work is being undertaken out of season, Chairman Finance Commissioner Ross states, it is expected that the federal and provincial governments will share the excess cost. Where contracts must be let, the committee suggests that a condition be made that no out-of-town labor be employed. They also recommend that each laborer be given three days' work a week in order to spread the expenditure over a large number of unemployed men as possible. Employment on all the work will be secured through a co-ordination of the unemployment bureau, in order that applicants may be checked up. In view of the fact that the Transportation Commission will have to lay off about 2,000 men as soon as the ground freezes, the committee urges haste in starting some of the works."

The relief works as proposed include street grading; sewer and water main construction; grading and street cleaning in the parks department, which can employ 680 men on a 8-day week for three months; erection of buildings for the fire, hospital, street and public health departments and board of education. There will also be grading and road work for the harbor department. The additional cost of work in winter does not weigh in Toronto against the need of work for men. It is a choice between work and idleness, and the city chooses work, that there may be something to show for the expenditure."

The signing at Kabul of a treaty of friendship between Great Britain and Afghanistan, recognizing the complete independence of the latter, recalls many tragic incidents of history. Kabul and Kandahar are inseparably connected with the name of Lord Roberts, one of whose titles was Roberts of Kandahar. Standing at one of the doors of India, Afghanistan was long a grave menace to British influence, but now there is a happy issue of all past disputes.

Deputy Fire Marshall Lewis of Ontario says "The most prolific cause of preventable fires in all walks of life is unquestionably the careless use of matches."

Story Bits About Canadian Authors

When one hears of a London publisher selling the thirty-third edition of a Canadian author's work he may surely conclude that that writer has made a name not only for himself but also for Canada. Such an announcement was recently made by Robert W. Service's London publisher in regard to "Songs of a Sourdough," his first book, and this is all the more remarkable when one notes that until the war took an influx of Canadian boys, who began to talk about Service and his characteristic



ROBERT W. SERVICE. Author of "Songs of a Sourdough," "Ballads of Chevalier," "Rhymes of a Rolling Stone," "Rhymes of a Red-Cross Man," "The Trail of 996," etc.

work, into England, there was very little demand indeed over there for the books of the Canadian Kipling. Service is outstanding in several ways. First, because he is one of the very few people who have been able to make a complete out of verse-writing; second, because he has created a work and a field different from any predecessor; third, because of his decidedly romantic marriage to a young French girl, when neither of them could thoroughly understand the other's conversation; and because of his rather interesting life in France, so foreign to any of his previous experiences, subsequent to his service as an ambulance driver in the Great War. Mr. Service was born in Preston, Lancashire, some forty years ago, spending his childhood and youth in Glasgow. He was early apprenticed to a bank where, as he notes, "I seemed to see an endless class of drab days and myself growing bald and paunchy in a halo of respectability. I wanted color, action, excitement." So at twenty-one he came over by steamer to Canada and landed at Vancouver with exactly five dollars in his pocket. His first job was picking stones in a turnip field, and for some time following he went through some hard-ship experiences as a wood-cutter, farmer, hand, tunnel digger and traveler in Mexico. Better known than these are the facts of his being sent to the Yukon to make a discovery of gold in '08, and the following experiences which provide the genus for his characteristic books of verse. What is not so well known is the fact that "Songs of a Sourdough" was published at least seven or eight United States publishing houses, none of which would make a venture with the new type of verse. Eventually the manuscript reached the Briggs house, now The Ryerson Co. of Toronto, where someone had foresight enough to appreciate something of its possibilities. It found a strong market. Mr. Service is still in France, even his publishers do not seem to know where he is likely to be living, for he has never even begun to spend what his royalties bring him, in the beloved Brittany he has written so picturesquely about.

TREES.

In the Garden of Eden, planted by God. There were goodly trees in the spring-time—

Trees of beauty and height and grace To stand in splendor before His face.

Apple and hickory, ash and pear, Oak and beech and the tulip rare.

The trembling aspen, the noble pine, The sweeping elm by the river line.

Trees for the birds to build in and sing, And the lilac tree for a joy in spring.

Trees to turn at the frosty call And to give ground for their Lord's footfall.

Wood for the bow, the spear and the flail, The shell and the mast and the daring sail.

He made them of every grain and gift For the use of man in the Garden of Earth.

Then, lest the soul should not lift her eyes From the gift of the Giver of Paradise.

On the crown of a hill, for all to see, God planted a scarlet maple tree.

—ELISS CARMAN.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Folks and howlers.

Mrs. Kowler—Those new neighbors of ours must be rich, judging from the clothes they wear.

Mrs. Wyse—That's a poor way to judge, my dear. Some of the most gorgeous fashions haven't got a scent.

Exhausted the Subject.

"Of course, you all talked about me as soon as I left."

"No, dear. We thought you had attended to that quite sufficiently."

Guests Dave.

Dave S. stepped into Ed. Wise's other day and asked "the man who knows," for a pair of socks.

"What number?" "No. 10."

"Two, you poor dumbbell! Do I look like a centipede?"—Hollywood High School News.

Good Reason.

"I verily believe that Mrs. Newrich thinks as much of her dog as she does of her baby."

"Well, one can hardly blame her, the dog has a pedigree."—Boston Transcript.

All The Way Back.

"Jones went to Maine to get back to nature."

"Did he?"

"Yes; he got shot by mistake for a deer and was buried yesterday."—Boston Transcript.

BRITAIN'S PRESS AGENT AT THE CONFERENCE

(Mail and Empire, Toronto.)

Critics of Great Britain say that for generations her diplomacy has been the best in the world. The Germans blame the alleged hypocrisy of British diplomacy for reconciling the rest of the world to her vast territorial expansions. In our own times British diplomats seem to have little to learn as to the way of stating a case which shall make the best impression upon the public. This is not only wise; it is necessary, for a diplomatic stroke that has not public approval is likely to be repudiated. In the Washington conference, where it is expected open negotiations will be more or less openly arrived at, and where the eyes of the world rest upon the diplomats, it is vital that when a case is presented the point of view of the nation that presents it shall be thoroughly understood by the vast outside audience, and especially by the people of the United States. Britain recognizes this fact and has appointed a specialist in publicity to attend to it.

Lord Riddell's Position.

The expert is Lord Riddell, owner of the News of the World, a weekly with a circulation of 3,000,000. He is admittedly one of the shrewdest newspapermen in the world, and a press agent without a peer in Washington. His position there is a peculiar one. He is not a liaison officer as he was between the delegates and the British press at Paris. He is in the United States at the behest of the Newspaper Publishers' Association of England. He does not write, either for his own paper or for the association. He simply talks to the newspaper correspondents at Washington twice a day, once to the men working for the evening papers and once to the men working for the regular papers. When he is not talking to them he is with the British delegates. He is deep in their confidence, knows everything that is planned, and his job is to have it spread from the British point of view in the American press.

The Premier's Friend.

Lord Riddell owes his position at Washington partly to the experience he gained at Paris, partly to his command of the news that British headquarters Association of England. He does not write, either for his own paper or for the association. He simply talks to the newspaper correspondents at Washington twice a day, once to the men working for the evening papers and once to the men working for the regular papers. When he is not talking to them he is with the British delegates. He is deep in their confidence, knows everything that is planned, and his job is to have it spread from the British point of view in the American press.

The "Trouble Shooter."

We have read several sketches of Lord Riddell by American correspondents and detect a note of enthusiasm in them all. He blew into Washington, and in an hour had established himself as one of the most important men in the room. He is a man of great personal charm, and his long training as a newspaperman gives him a third, and together they make an irresistible combination.

Of Humble Origin.

Lord Riddell is one of those British peers who started in the race of life from scratch. He is of humble origin, and, as he says himself, was "shunted into the world without a shilling." He worked his way through school and became a lawyer. He abandoned this profession, on the advice of a friend, to enter the business office of a newspaper. Then he became a reporter, and an editor, and finally a proprietor. He became a political influence, and today is said to be as close to Lloyd George as any man living. The other day he expressed the opinion that the new newspaper had not yet been produced. He thought it would be a combination of the best of English papers, which are solidly packed with information, and the American papers, which have such picturesque methods of editing and in-forming their readers. We infer that Lord Riddell is not at an inattentive reader of Canadian papers.

MEIGHEN AND TARIFF.

(Toronto Star, Toronto.)

In the session of 1910-11 Mr. Arthur Meighen, now Premier of the Dominion, moved a resolution in the House that "substantial reductions in the import duties on agricultural implements should be put into effect." In that speech Mr. Meighen scathingly denounced the protective tariff and the toll manufacturers were able to levy on the producers of the country.

In ringing tones he declared that the Laurier government "preached a doctrine in which they had no real belief." He declared that Laurier had forgotten the principle, laid down in the National Policy, "that as our industrial institutions advanced in strength, and as they were able with every advance to acquire a hold on the home market, the import duties were to be diminished and adjusted."

Again he spoke of protection "running rampant," and of the government becoming the slaves of those who helped them into power, and who now maintained them behind ramparts of gold. No free trader was ever more outspoken in his condemnation of the special privileges than was Arthur Meighen in 1910-11.

As the conclusion of business improves, and as the manufacturers' hold becomes stronger, the same principle would compel reduction to meet those conditions.

Mr. Meighen spoke of the large export trade in agricultural implements and argued that firms which could compete abroad should be able to compete at home.

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