

## The Daily Gleaner



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1911.

## SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has come to New Brunswick and gone again. It can well be believed that the meeting held in this province was something of a disappointment to his friends. The number of people in attendance at this meeting was good, but there was ever present that certain indefinable impression that there was a weakening of the old influence of the Liberal chieftain over his followers and supporters. One of the causes which lies behind this situation is personal to the Premier himself. He has ceased to give thought beforehand to what he will say. He may please his audience at times with his thoughts and his fancies, but the effect is only for the moment. Nothing substantial is left on the minds of his hearers to keep them thinking his way when they have left the place of assembly and taken up again their daily routine. Even in his personal appeals Sir Wilfrid was less effective than his friends could have desired. He is far too healthy looking for the "old man" role he assumed. On the supreme issue of the campaign he failed to be convincing when he endeavored to show that Canada's fiscal independence was not endangered by the trucking of his government with Washington. For his defence of what in operation would begin a revolution in Canada's fiscal affairs, he went back to the days when the Conservative public men thought that the United States market was necessary to Canada's progress. He ignored the change in conditions that is revolutionizing every Province of the Dominion. Sir Wilfrid fails to see the immense strides which Canada has made in the past thirty years. How our cities and towns have grown and thrived, and that splendid home market—which is the envy of the continent—became a reality that must be reckoned with before any drastic economic change is adopted. The more our cities grow, the less will the agriculturist have to depend on any outside market for a steady consumptive demand for his products. The people of New Brunswick want neither reciprocity nor any other change that will threaten the permanency of conditions so satisfactory to them. They are living in the conditions of to-day, and not in the circumstances that prevailed a generation ago. When Sir Wilfrid told the people of conditions of the long past, he missed his point, and failed to convince his hearers.

Apparently, Sir Wilfrid was brought to this province in an endeavor to bolster up the falling fortunes of his Minister of Public Works. It was expected that the Liberal chief would be able to lift up the hands that lie down, and confirm the feeble knees. It was enthusiasm that was lacking, and consequently Sir Wilfrid's appeal has been emotional rather than intellectual. Hero worship is a characteristic of humanity. The whole Liberal party—and particularly the Quebec end of it—has been falling down before a graven image for a good many years, an image with feet of clay. So long as the image represented good government, the genuflection might have been excused. But when the image itself seeks to turn attention away from a record of mistakes and extravagance, surely it is time to protest. In the past it has not been usual for the Premier to descend to the lower levels of political appeal, but has left such work to the minor members of his entourage. However, in his visit to New Brunswick he has not been above seeking to awaken the cupidity of the electors, and at the same time has exposed himself to the criticism which common and vulgar political methods are certain to induce. Sir Wilfrid can be high minded if he pleases, but danger threatens, and he fancies himself bound to move for the temporary suspension of the rules.

Whatever argument the Premier has advanced in this province has been perfunctory. He has almost entirely dealt with generalities. At no time has he attempted such definite and clear argument as Mr. Borden and his Conservative lieutenants have been making throughout the Dominion. He declares that his government favors reciprocity, therefore it must be right; Canada is prosperous, therefore the credit must go to the Liberal party.

Turn now to the Conservative party. For the first time in years that party is filled with a mighty enthusiasm. Every speaker attacks with the utmost ardor both the reciprocity proposals and the general record of the Laurier government. There is confidence in their tones and fervor in their gestures. They feel the trend of public sentiment, and know that it has set in strong against the present administration. They realize that the hitherto solid Quebec is about to fly to pieces, and that a new and better epoch is about to dawn. Conservative speakers are received with cheers and their scornful references to the government are applauded. Better still, leading men of the Conservative party, who are in close and constant communication with the country, receive daily offers of assistance from the most unexpected quarters. The industrial communities are all strongly against reciprocity, while there is a widespread sentiment hostile to any entanglement with the United States. The farmers of Canada, in particular, have followed the arguments for and against reciprocity with great care, and the great majority of them are thoroughly convinced that the ratification of the agreement would spell disaster for Canada. Not only have the Conservative farmers stood firm in opposition, but there has been considerable and widespread defection from the Liberal ranks on this subject.

Taking the Dominion as a whole, the prospects for the Conservative party are most encouraging and have never looked brighter.

## MR. SIFTON AT ST. JOHN.

The citizens of Canada's Winter Port never listened to a more scathing arraignment of a policy affecting the future relations of Canada than the message delivered there last evening by Hon. Clifford Sifton. There is nothing ambiguous about the position of Mr. Sifton. He does not come before the people to uphold Conservative policy and Conservative principles. But as a loyal and patriotic Canadian he believes that he has a duty to perform to his fellow citizens in the grave crisis that the reciprocity proposals of the Laurier government has placed the Dominion in. Last evening Mr. Sifton drove home to the people of St. John the fact that no other city in Canada stands to lose so much from the ratification of the reciprocity pact as does St. John. The diversion of western grain to the various milling centres of the United States, instead of coming as at present over Canadian railways for shipment at Canadian ports to the great open market of Great Britain, can only have one effect upon the rapidly increasing business done at the Winter Port of St. John. All expansion would cease and the business already secured would inevitably dwindle away to the proportions of years ago. The one great ambition of the people of St. John has been to make their port the Liverpool of the American continent. The municipality itself, with considerable enterprise, has poured forth its wealth in an effort to provide facilities for the carriage of the great western surplus of food supply to the people who wait for it on the other side of the Atlantic. Now, by the dash of a pen, the Laurier government proposes to change all this. The western wheat is not to be brought to St. John for shipment, but handed over to Jim Hill and his network of American railroads, who will carry it to the great milling centres of the Republic, after which it will be converted into flour and then carried to American seaports on its road to that self-same market of Great Britain, for consumption. Is it, then, any wonder that the citizens of St. John view with alarm the proposals of the Laurier government to sell them out to their American rivals, and harden their hearts when Mr. Pugsley tells them of the millions of dollars which he intends to spend on the extension of the facilities afforded by Courtenay Bay? Of what possible advantage will be the facilities for doing a great business, if, through a mistaken and bad policy, the business which would naturally come to the port is diverted to other channels? It must be plain to all that the western wheat cannot go to the American market and to the port of St. John at the same time. It cannot benefit both.

Mr. Pugsley has a poor case to put before the electors of St. John, and it is hardly to be wondered at that the Conservative party is most optimistic as to what the result at the polls will be there on the 21st of September.

## Bijou.

The Bijou will open Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Special pictures. Four reels of pictures. It has been thoroughly overhauled and under new management.

## Plums.

Yerxa's car of plums, peaches and Pears arrived today. Now is your opportunity to get the bottom prices.



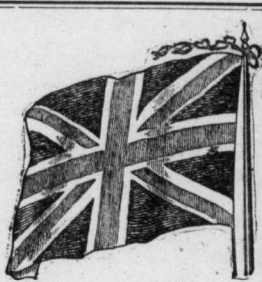
## WHAT PACT WILL DO FOR CANADA

Continued from page 5.  
UNITED STATES EXPORTS TO CANADA ABOUT FIFTEEN TIMES MORE MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS THAN CANADA EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.  
Now those are his own words, not mine. What encouragement does that give you to suppose that the American market will be of such great advantage to Canada? When they are doing those things now, in spite of duty, what may you expect when there is no duty? Is there any reason to suppose that this state of things is in any way beneficial to the Canadian Farmer?

Bath, N. B.

W. H. BRAMLEY.

Will the pact clean out the Augean Stables?



## Borden Meeting

The Electors of SUNBURY and QUEENS will have an opportunity to hear

HON. R. L. BORDEN

Discuss the Chief Issues of this Federal Campaign, including

THE RECIPROCITY PACT,

at a Public Meeting to be held at the

Court House, Gagetown,

—ON—

MONDAY, SEPT. 4 LABOR DAY

At 2 p.m.

MR. LUTHER B. SMITH, the Liberal-Conservative Candidate, and HON. G. J. CLARKE, will also speak.

All are very cordially invited to attend.

Steamers from all points except Washademoak will serve both ways those desiring to attend.

R. D. WILMOT, President.

God Save the King.

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