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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1910.

A TORONTO OPINION OF MR. PUGSLEY.

The Toronto News improves the occasion of Mr. Pugsley's visit to Toronto to give a sketch of his career, and an appreciation of his political character. The story begins with a brief recital of Mr. Pugsley's political campaigns as a Conservative, ending with his acceptance of the party candidature in Kings from which he retired without facing the electors. It is pointed out that Mr. Pugsley changed sides when the federal government changed. Following a sketch of Mr. Pugsley's activities in provincial politics, the News observes:

"After the success of Mr. Hazen and the Opposition in New Brunswick peculiar facts concerning Mr. Pugsley became known. For example, proof was submitted to the effect that while in office his salary was constantly overdrawn by thousands of dollars, and this fact was concealed from the Legislature by the maintenance of a Suspense Account. At one time Mr. Pugsley owed the Province \$7,000. He paid no interest on these advances. When he went to Ottawa he was still \$2,000 in debt to the Provincial Treasury, and the money was not paid until after the success of Mr. Hazen's campaign."

This is the News summary of the dredging story:—"It was charged under affidavit that, through the influence of Mr. Pugsley, Mayes, a dredging contractor, had paid to George McAvity, the head of the Liberal organization, a rake-off of \$35,933 obtained by raising the price of a government contract from 50c. to 55c. a cubic yard. It was proved by the original agreement between Mayes and McAvity that the latter had not invested one cent in the dredging business. The money had been rifled from the Federal Treasury. Mr. Pugsley, as Minister of Public Works, declined to enter suit against McAvity for the recovery of this stolen money. He persisted in asserting that the affidavit of Mayes was false—even when it was proved true by documentary evidence that an ordinary man would not have the hardihood to deny."

The history of the Central Railway is also recalled by the Toronto News, showing the dual capacity in which Mr. Pugsley operated, as a minister handing out money and as a director receiving it. The commissioners who investigated the affair could not discover the destination of \$134,000 which disappeared, Mr. Pugsley's singular lapses of memory, and his lack of records contributing to the mystery. What happened at Ottawa in respect to this matter is thus described by the News:

"The case was brought up in Parliament, though some Liberals took the extraordinary position that, because it was a Provincial affair, it should not be discussed. Mr. Crothers made the argument, and Mr. Pugsley replied in a defence that was a marvel of 'oratory.' The News said at the time: 'For bald misstatement, baseless accusation and tenuous sophistry, it stands alone in the annals of Parliamentary debating.' That opinion has not been modified by time. If anything, it is stronger than ever. Mr. Pugsley went out of his way to attack Judge Landry as a partisan. The French papers of New Brunswick replied with some heat, intimating that the Judge was honorable and fair-minded, and that Mr. Pugsley was an unprincipled man. As for the speech, Mr. Crockett tore it to ribbons, and Mr. Pugsley would not stay in the House to answer the questions prepared for him. The resolution of want of confidence was defeated by the narrow majority of twenty-seven. Yet Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the blindness of partisanship gone mad, said he was prouder than ever of his minister."

Concerning another incident, the News says:—"Since that time Mr. Pugsley has been arraigned for his complicity in the purchase by the Government of a sawdust wharf, worth \$700, for the sum of \$5,000. Of this sum a good part, it is alleged, went to the party fund in New Brunswick. Certainly the Treasury was robbed."

After some strong language in reference to Mr. Pugsley's lack of moral principle in politics, and to the public character suggested in a popular nickname applied to him by writers in this province, the News concludes:

"This is the man whom the official Liberals of Toronto are moved to compliment at the Ontario Club. The News would find no fault if they lit their cigars in honor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or Mr. Fielding, or Mr. Graham, or Mr. Aylesworth, or Mr. Paterson. These are men of worth, honorable men, whose standing in the community is high. It may be that partisanship sometimes warps their vision, and distracts their attention from the good of the country. It may be that upon occasion they have put party before patriotism. But generally their public acts are not open to suspicion, and their record is not marred by political scandal. These men are not of the same stripe as Mr. Pugsley. This minister is wholly objectionable as a member of the Cabinet, and Liberals who pay court to him, and try to pretend that he is a person of distinction, merely make a pitiable exhibition of themselves, and enormously decrease the prestige of Liberalism in Toronto and in Canada."

THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

This is the birthday of the Union of South Africa, newest of the British federations, though the Union of South Africa is more a legislative than a federal union. In Australia the original colonies retained their sovereignty as states, the Commonwealth receiving limited powers, and limited revenues. The Canadian system established a strong central power, with the residue of authority after certain jurisdictions had been allotted to the provinces. South Africa gives the whole authority to the union, the provinces surviving as holders of little more than municipal powers, and these only so long and so far as the federal legislature may choose. Thus South Africa will be far more centralized than the other dominions.

But South Africa, though a vast territory, has not one half the area of Australia, or one-third that of Canada. Its possibilities are great, but are far exceeded by those of the other two dominions. South Africa has gold fields and diamond mines, whose wealth no man knows. But they will be worked out and are not in the same class with resources that are constantly renewed, like the forests, the fisheries and the farm. Irrigation may do much for the dry areas. There are great possibilities of sugar and cotton culture. The South Africa of the future will include a vast extent of tropical and semi-tropical country. Perhaps there is no country in the world better adapted for such fruits as grow in warm climates. South Africa may yet be the vineyard of the Empire.

So the new union will have an important place in the future commercial organization of the British peoples. It will contribute special products and provide markets for other commodities. South Africa will send to the councils of the nation, and give to the physical, intellectual and spiritual activities of the nation, her own type of men, something different from the people of the other dominions. She will offer peculiar experiences growing out of the meeting of her European races, and their joint contact with a native population greatly exceeding that of all European peoples. The men who rule South Africa will need to be resolute, aggressive, prudent and alert. They must face grave social and constitutional difficulties. Working their way through their own problems they will acquire a character and a self-confidence which must make them a powerful element in the Imperial federation that is to be.

South Africa makes a picturesque start, as a British dominion with a premier who ten years ago was a general in arms against Britain, and a cabinet containing more than one former enemy of England. But the prime minister has for some years been the head of a British colony, and is already familiar in Imperial conferences and councils. General Botha is Dutch and is doubtless a strong friend of Boer interests. But he is British by voluntary allegiance, and has given all possible guarantees of faithfulness and loyalty.

But whatever the character and history of this third British union over the seas shall be, the South African community comes into existence with the best wishes of the premier Dominion. We have our own type of federation, and there is yet no reason to suspect that either of the other systems is an improvement on that set forth in the British North America Act. Some of the fathers would have preferred a legislative union for Canada, but the Canada they had in mind was composed of the four original provinces with Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. The Dominion of today is another proposition, and perhaps had the members of the Upper Canadian delegation known as well as they builded they would have been federalists from conviction, as they were by compromise. This belongs to the past. Looking to the future, Canada today raises her flag to the new comrade, and out of an experience of nearly forty-three years offers the encouragement of a career which may be modestly pronounced not unsuccessful.

NO RESPECT FOR MAJORITIES.

The editor of the Moncton Transcript will not be among those who consider that a New Brunswick majority for Laurier in 1909 is a vindication of Mr. Pugsley's suspense accounts, or of the Central Railway scandals, or the Sawdust Wharf deal, or the McAvity rake-off. Mr. Hawke is still of the opinion that the Moncton Transcript with the Tramways and Gas Company is imprudent, though the electors of the city, voting on this particular issue alone, gave a majority of 763 to 63 in favor of the agreement. The Transcript accuses Mr. Robinson of refusing to even allow an opportunity to revise the contract, though the manager of the contracting company would have been willing to accept this provision. The Transcript thinks that the council was wrong, that more than nine-tenths of the electors are wrong, and that the provincial Liberal leader is wrong. This disrespect for majorities is worthy of notice. Mr. Hawke is quite right in insisting that a count of votes does not settle everything.

REFLECTING CREDIT ON THE PROVINCE.

Premier Hazen has just returned home from Boston, where he attended a series of public functions. This he seems to have done in a manner both reflecting credit on the province from which he comes as well as himself personally. The province can afford, irrespective of party political prejudices, to feel pride in its public men, when they go abroad, acquit themselves with ability and honor. There may be possible differences of opinion as to deductions, which Mr. Hazen drew in his discussion of the reciprocity question, but however much a fair critic may dissent, candor compels the admission that so far as Eastern Canada is concerned, as a whole, there is much voicing of similar sentiments by public bodies, whatever may be the undercurrent of the great body of public opinion which finds no such means of expression. —Moncton Transcript (Liberal).

It is stated that Colonel Roosevelt will be allowed the privileges of an ambassador, in exemption from the payment of duty, and from inspection of his luggage when he comes home. The New York Post, which is opposed to tariffs, hopes that the pride or curiosity of the ex-President will cause him to refuse these special immunities, and that he will insist on sharing the experience of all that befalls the most friendless traveller. From this agony the Post hopes for the best. It believes that if Colonel Roosevelt is subject to the full inquisitorial proceedings imposed at the port of New York, he will attack the regulations with his shadow casting club.

The Surveyor General will rejoice to find that there are more revenues to be obtained from the public domain without increasing the destruction of trees. He may have thought that he had discovered all the leaks through which his predecessors had allowed the public revenue to flow. But Kent county offers occasion for further investigation.

The Acadicians of this province have lost one of their leading men by the death of Dr. Gaudet of Memramcook. Dr. Gaudet was prominent in his profession. He was for some years an active and influential participant in political struggles, and at all times commanded the respect of the communities where he was known.

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Their orders fill the country lanes,
Now that a breadth of blue succeeds
The dripping trees and misty pines;
Let others praise their gay refrains
And swell the note to heights sublime
My muse will sing of summer rains
That clear up, just at milking time.
From bluer depths the rainbow speeds,
And with its splendor softly wanes
The wealth of which the story reads,
Once tempting us; now fancy deigns
Such gems, preferring airy strains
The red-breast chant in liquid chime;
The far-heard fame of summer rains
That clear up, just at milking time.

'Mid grasses strung with dewy beads,
Do milkmaids go; a tree-toad gains
His mushroom music-stool, and leads
The rural choir; you peacock trains
Proudly his plumage out, and seizes
The sun's low beams in spotted rhyme;
Bright chorus to the summer rains
That clear up, just at milking time.
L'envoi
Prince, loving every link that chains
Brave heroes of romance, still I'm
In love with those soft summer rains
That clear up, just at milking time.
—Alonso Rice.

GOOD STORIES

Kirke La Shelle met an actor and noticed that he was wearing a mourning band on his arm.

"It's for my father," the actor explained. "I've just come from his funeral."

La Shelle expressed his sympathy. The actor's grief was obviously very real and great. "I attended to all the funeral arrangements," he said. "We had everything just as father would have liked it."

"Were there many there?" asked La Shelle.

"Many there!" cried the actor with pride. "Why, my boy, we turned 'em away!"

JOSH WISE SAYS.

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used will be given away at the close of the classes. Come and get particulars.

Assembly Rooms

Rev. M. J. and Mrs. Macpherson attended Dr. Torrey's meetings in Fredericton on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. J. W. Taylor, furniture dealer and hardware merchant, of this place, is erecting a new barn and warehouse to meet his growing business.

Several good catches of trout have been secured on the Magaguadavic river and lake. Perch have not been so plentiful this spring in the Oromocto lake.

Frequent rains are somewhat delaying the seeding as it is almost impossible to work long lying lands.

Miss MacKenzie, teacher at Tweed-side, and Miss Mills, teacher at Harvey, returned on Tuesday evening after having visited their respective homes in Fredericton and French lake for a few days.

There were several visitors to Fredericton this week from this place, among whom were Mrs. S. B. Hunter, Willie Hunter, Mrs. James Hunter, Miss Lottie MacCallum, Mrs. Cassford, Mr. Wm. Grieve, Mrs. Natt. Swan, and Mrs. Lawson.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith were down to St. John on Monday.

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