

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1914.

## SICKENING REVELATIONS

When the report of the National Transcontinental Railway Investigation Commission was submitted to the House of Commons, showing, as it did, scandalous transactions perpetrated under Liberal rule, the Liberal press hastened to claim that the revelations in the report were made possible through differences of opinion on the part of engineers. They can hardly use the same excuse in the case of the latest scandal with which parliament has to deal, namely the merry riot of graft and dishonesty practised in connection with the construction of the Trent Canal, the report of the investigation into which was tabled in the House of Commons yesterday, and doubtless will be discussed later.

The enquiry into the Trent Canal matter took the form of an investigation, where the investigator was clothed with all the authority of a court of law, and evidence was submitted under oath. It presents startling evidence of dishonesty and corruption and, what is more serious to the Liberal party, brings some of the matters very close to the only effective fighter Sir Wilfrid Laurier now has on the front row of the opposition benches. This gentleman is Hon. George P. Graham, who succeeded Hon. H. R. Emmerson as Minister of Railways and is about the only front bench supporter of Sir Wilfrid, during the present session, who, because none of the recent transactions appeared to have fastened themselves upon him, could muster courage to talk back to government members. With Mr. Graham affected and Mr. Pugsley out of the House through illness, Sir Wilfrid's last vestige of fighting support has vanished.

Reference to the news columns of The Standard this morning will convey some slight idea of the extent of the dishonesty practised at the Trent Canal. According to the evidence, pay rolls were padded, government employees paid their bills by placing their creditors on the public sheets and permitting them to dip into the public chest without giving fair value for the money received.

We are informed that the magic pay sheets of the canal work included as "laborers" names of men who never did a day's laboring work in their lives, and in fact names of men who did not even exist. Bankers, lawyers, physicians, dentists, newspaper men, hotel keepers and merchants all figured as "laborers" and were rewarded for services rendered to private individuals by an opportunity to pilfer from the Canadian people. These are serious charges and merit the most serious investigation, and, apparently, this is what they received, for the evidence taken at the sessions of the enquiry seems to leave little doubt of the culpability of all concerned.

impossible? It is now generally believed that the present government will be unable to punish the men who profited from the National Transcontinental Railway jobbery because the regulations of the loosely drawn contracts were not violated. Does a similar condition exist in connection with this latest revelation of graft and dishonesty?

It has been intimated that the Liberal Opposition during this session, may attempt to precipitate a debate on the naval question. Would it not be more to the purpose if they were to forget to take part in a debate on the simple question of honesty? Canada's fair name has been smirched by the conduct of Liberal parliamentarians at Quebec. Canada's public men have suffered through the action of a Liberal member in Ontario. Canada's reputation for justice and business sense has been questioned by reason of the National Transcontinental Railway scandal. And now comes the most direct evidence of downright dishonesty on the part of servants of the late Liberal government. Must this continue? Is there never to be an end of the nauseating revelations of incompetency, blundering and rascality practised under the name of honest government by the men who supported and served Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he ruled?

The Canadian people made no mistake when on September 21st, 1911, they entrusted the reins of office to men who, in their dealings with the people, will practise simple honesty but must forever be pursued by the fruits of the public apathy which permitted this country for fifteen years to suffer a regime of corruption the sickening details of which are just coming to light.

ULSTER AND HOME RULE. If the proposal of Premier Asquith, made yesterday in the House of Commons, to permit the people of Ulster, themselves, to decide upon their destiny in the matter of Home Rule also covers the protection of all Ulster's present rights in the event of her people returning a decision against the measure, there can be little complaint to make as to its fairness. It merely a subterfuge intended to postpone the final settlement of a very troublesome question then it is not to be regarded too seriously. More than anything else it indicates that the Asquith government at the present time does not care to face the judgment of the people of Great Britain and Ireland at the polls and it also shows the falsity of the ground taken by Liberal papers in Canada in attempting to make their readers believe that anything like a resort to arms in Ulster is beyond possibility.

It is not at all likely that the Premier of Great Britain would yield the ground upon which he took his original stand if he did not realize that his position, and that of his government was extremely dangerous. The first proposition was to give Home Rule to the whole of Ireland with little or no regard for the Ulstermen. During the wrangle and struggle over Home Rule much has been said and written on both sides that would better have remained unspoken and unopened. Motives have been imputed where they did not exist. There has been riot and even bloodshed and yet the question as far as settlement on the original ground is concerned remains today in much the same position it was a year ago.

## Diary of Events

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

The Hon. Clifford Sifton, one of two sons of a distinguished father to attain a high place in Canadian public life, was born in Middlesex county, Ont., fifty-three years ago today. His father, the Hon. John Wm. Sifton, Tribune, Speaker of the Manitoba Assembly, and his elder brother, Arthur Lewis Sifton, was chief justice of Northwest Territories and of Alberta before assuming the premiership of Alberta in 1910. Clifford Sifton, like his brother, was educated at Victoria University in Coburg, graduating in 1883 with the degree of B. A. and the Prince of Wales' medal. He was called to the Manitoba bar in 1882, and began practice in Brandon, from which place he was elected to the Manitoba Legislature and afterwards to the Dominion Parliament. In the Greenway administration of 1891 he served in the Manitoba cabinet as attorney-general and minister of education, to which latter civil procedure laws of the Province. He also conducted negotiations on behalf of Manitoba with the Dominion government in reference to the Manitoba school question, which had set the whole country by the ears. When Mr. Laurier headed the Dominion government after the general election of 1896, Mr. Sifton was called to Ottawa as minister of the interior and superintendent-general of Indian affairs. In 1905 he had a disagreement with Sir Wilfrid Laurier in respect to the educational provisions of the bills to establish the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and resigned from the government. While a member of the federal government Mr. Sifton devoted a great deal of attention to inducing emigration to Canada, and was the agent of the British government before the Alaska Boundary Commission. After leaving the government he interested himself in the conservation of Canada's natural resources, and headed a commission for advancing the movement.

### THE HUMAN PROCESSION

GAEKWAR OF BARODA FIFTY-ONE TODAY. H. H. Maharaja Gaekwar Sir Sayaj Rao III, of Baroda, G. C. S. I., Sena Khad Khel, Sam Sher Bahadur, Farzand-Dowlat-Inglishia, the activity and credits of the Maharaja of the state of Baroda, was born fifty-one years ago today, and succeeded to the throne in 1878. His Highness ruled with the assistance of John Bull—over a territory 8,099 square miles in extent, and has nearly two million subjects. Besides being a monarch and a big game hunter and a globe-trotter, he has visited most of the countries of Europe and America, the Gaekwar is the author of several books, including "From a Prince to a Statesman," "Familiar Notes," "The Gaekwar is a multi-millionaire and one of India's wealthiest princes. He is received in England with royal salute of two guns. The ancestors of the Gaekwar were the rulers of the nation which was a leading branch of the Marhatta confederacy, covering a large part of the Deccan.

The Gaekwar has been twice married, his second spouse, Chhannabai Maharani II, being the author of "The Gaekwar's Life in India." She is said to hold advanced ideas on the subject of suffrage for women. The Gaekwar has three sons and one daughter, the eldest son, Prince Prithvi, was educated at Harvard. During the Durbar at Delhi, when King George was crowned Emperor of India, it was reported that the Gaekwar intimated to the British monarch by falling to appear in full dress.

The Gaekwar's only daughter was the heroine of a romance last year, when it was announced that her engagement to Prince Jitendra of Cochin-Bihar was broken off. The Princess India then sailed away for England, leaving her fiancé "waiting at the church." There was vast excitement in India over the sudden termination of the engagement between descendants of two of the greatest of India's native rulers. Elaborate preparations had been made for the ceremony, and the date set was only a few days distant when the news of the Prince's withdrawal from the marriage was received. The royal family of Cochin-Bihar claims to be descended from the gods, but some native historians have denied this divine origin, and have alleged that the Cochin-Bihar princes came from a tribe of aboriginal descent, which would necessarily place them on a lower plane than the princes of the ancient house of Baroda.

A few months later it developed that the Prince's withdrawal from the marriage was responsible for the breaking of the engagement. The Prince followed his sweetheart to London, where a record of his visit was effected. The Gaekwar did not witness India. The Gaekwar has been in Europe at the time, and it is supposed that he did not favor the alliance, basing his objections on the difference in cast and religion.

## Little Benny's Note Book

By BENNY. Mother, you no write a lot about dogs, don't you. Why no, sed ma, I cant say that I do. As a matter of fact, I cant say that you do either, sed pop, my remark was merely an auspicious opening for another kwesthis I was about to ask you. Ill start again, Mother, you no write a lot about dogs, don't you. For moseys sakes, sed ma, didnt I jest tell you I didnt, are you krazy or wat. Neethir, sed pop, if youll jest have a littal poyshents we may get throo with this thing, now this time, please dont interrupt till I get the sekid kwesthis out, heer go, Mother, you no write a lot about dogs, don't you, well, did you evvir heer of a pip up. A wat, sed ma. A pip pup, sed pop. No I didnt, sed ma, and wats now, I dont believe there is eny sutch thing. Serteny there is, sed pop, think hard, didnt you evvir heer of a pip pup? No, and you didnt either, sed ma. Wat, sed pop, do you mean you evvir heer the expresshin, fill youre pipe or wat.

AND HE DID. BY GOSH—THERE'S ASLED—I'LL TAKE ANICE SLIDE. AND HE DID.



ure. Galt, the Scotchman, vastly improved the system, using a modified Roman letter, and confining himself to lower-case in preference to capitals. In 1824 Galt issued the Gospel of St. John, the first book of the Bible ever printed for the blind. The work was taken up in America by Dr. Howe, the husband of Julia Ward Howe, then in charge of Perkins Institute in Boston, who printed the first New Testament in 1826. Dr. Howe issued the entire Bible in 1851 in 1852 at the Perkins Institution in Boston, and libraries of this kind have since been established in nearly all large cities.

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