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SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 1911.

THE GAME IS TOO TRANSPARENT.

The anxiety of the Telegraph and Times to prove that the letter addressed to Premier Hazen by Mr. Thomas Malcolm was not a private letter is rather amusing, in view of the facts. Mr. Hazen has the letter in his possession, and the envelope is marked "private" in clear and distinct characters. Mr. Hazen certainly considered the letter confidential and he distinctly stated so in his reply to Mr. Malcolm. That Mr. Malcolm concurred in this view is also clear, for when he acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Hazen's letter he referred to his first letter as "marked private" and gave permission to the Premier to submit its contents to the executive council.

This is about all the evidence any reasonable man would require that the letter was a private one. It would therefore seem that it is up to Mr. Tweeddale to explain how a copy of this private letter came into his possession, and why he read it in the Legislature. The whole business looks very much like a scheme on the part of some person or persons to gain a little cheap notoriety, and, incidentally, political advantage by making the contents of Mr. Malcolm's private letter public.

If such were the intention Mr. Hazen's reply, although very brief, places the conspirators in a very awkward plight. He clearly points out that the Government of New Brunswick is in no position to make a contract under part two of the act passed last year providing for the construction of the St. John Valley Railway and its operation as a part of the intercolonial system. This is not due to any neglect on the part of the Government of New Brunswick. The responsibility rests entirely and only on the Government of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Graham gave notice of a resolution providing for the leasing and operating of a railway down the valley of the River St. John as a part of the intercolonial system. The text of the resolution went to the country. This was months ago, but nothing has been heard of it since. It has never been referred to from that hour to this. No effort has been made to take a vote on it. No bill has been brought down to authorize the Government of Canada to enter into such an arrangement. So far as the Parliament of Canada is concerned the question of the St. John Valley Railway is entirely out of sight and out of mind. Nobody seems to have the slightest concern regarding it. Mr. Graham in his speech on the intercolonial, the other day, did not refer to it in any way. He had apparently forgotten the proposal altogether.

If the Government of Canada were as anxious to secure the construction and operation of this railway as Mr. Tweeddale would have the people believe, they are pursuing a remarkable course. It is easy to give notice of a resolution in any legislative body, but it would be much more convincing if the resolution were passed and the legislation necessary to put the plan in operation secured. Had this been done Mr. Malcolm's offer to construct the railway would have been a business proposition and the Government of New Brunswick would have been in a position to ascertain whether Mr. Malcolm was able to carry out the proposition he made or not. But until the Government of Canada is authorized by Parliament to lease and operate the Valley Railway, both the Government of New Brunswick and Mr. Malcolm would be wasting time in considering an arrangement for its construction.

This is not Mr. Malcolm's fault, nor is it the fault of Mr. Hazen. The blame rests solely with the Ottawa Government. They knew the date of the opening of the New Brunswick Legislature weeks ago, and if there had been any sincere desire to forward the construction of the Valley Railway, and to operate it as a part of the intercolonial system, the act of Parliament necessary would now have become law.

The fact that this very necessary preliminary has been neglected plus the fact of Mr. Malcolm's offer to build the railway practically upon terms named by himself and not in accordance with the provisions of the New Brunswick act at all, and the additional circumstance that a copy of this offer of his, although labelled "private" turns up in the hands of a gentleman willing to take the onus of making public a private letter, seems to furnish abundant proof that the offer of Mr. Malcolm after all is only a part of a political game which certain gentlemen have been playing with this project ever since 1907. It is only another effort to deceive the people of the St. John Valley into the belief that a small but noisy band of political conspirators are their friends. Nothing could be further from the facts. Not one of these men cares a jot whether the Valley Railway is built or not. They have played football with the project for years, but with no intention of permitting the ball to reach the goal.

Mr. Malcolm is not entirely unknown to the people of New Brunswick as a builder of railways. It is not yet twenty years since the construction of the International Railway, at first known as the Restigouche and Western, was commenced, but in 1903 the Legislature of New Brunswick authorized the Government, in addition to the usual subsidy, to guarantee the bonds of the company for \$5,000 a mile. Again in 1907 the guarantee was increased to \$8,000 a mile and the amount of the guarantee and subsidy made a first mortgage on the property. The International is less than half the length of the proposed Valley Railway, but Mr. Malcolm has been engaged for more than ten years in its construction.

ANNEXATION NO BOGEY.

Mr. McCall was chosen by President Taft to take charge of the Reciprocity Agreement, and steer it through the House of Representatives at Washington. He is a Republican and in close touch with the President, and is one of the ablest men in Congress. He knows the inner feelings and ambitions of the public men of the United States, and is fully acquainted with the traditions of the Republic. He, on the Republican side, and Champ Clark for the Democrats, were the two men who successfully engineered the measure through the House, who presented its merits and answered its objections.

Readers of The Standard are already acquainted with

the fervid utterances of Champ Clark, who declared that he favored Reciprocity because he favored the annexation of Canada and saw in it the means of accomplishing that object. "WE ARE READY TO ANNEX CANADA. I AM FOR IT BECAUSE I HOPE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN THE AMERICAN FLAG WILL FLOAT OVER EVERY SQUARE FOOT OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN POSSESSIONS CLEAR TO THE NORTH POLE." There is no equivocation or indefiniteness in this declaration. So much for Champ Clark. Not so much, however, has been heard of the statements made by Mr. McCall who had the measure in hand. From the congressional record we take the following extracts from his speech:—

"If it were proposed to add to this country today 'another Louisiana purchase, or if it were proposed 'to add two or three agricultural states, who would there be to deny that such a circumstance would augment materially the prosperity and wealth of the two countries? And yet to the extent to which this Bill 'goes that is just what we are doing."

He then quoted Goldwin Smith's well known annexation sentiments as indicative of the benefits which would result from such a step, and went on to say:—

"It is argued against the Bill that Canada can 'still give a preferential tariff to Great Britain, and 'that there should be a provision in it that she shall 'not prefer the products of Great Britain to those 'of the United States. It would scarcely be good 'form for us to try to regulate in advance the internal 'fiscal policy of the British Empire. However, if it 'will be always within the power of Congress, if it 'shall appear that any undue advantage hereafter is 'given to Great Britain, to correct and change these 'rates at any time or to repeal them all."

Anyone can see the meaning of this language. In simple English it means: "Go slowly, take this first. Then we shall gradually strengthen our hold, and increase our influence, and by and by be in a position to ask for and get complete control."

President Taft's chosen leaders have been more frank than he and less diplomatic. But they have been more truthful. Very little prominence was given to Mr. McCall's candid avowal, as just then the President had taken fright at Champ Clark's open utterances, and had counselled caution all along the line. But everywhere through the United States the spirit of Annexation and Over-Lordship has been abundantly manifest, and exultation unceasing or ill-concealed has been generally apparent.

Mr. Blake was right in 1891 when he left the Liberals on account of the veiled treason embodied in their policy of commercial union, and thousands of Liberals will follow Mr. Blake and for exactly the same reason in 1911. Already the procession has begun, and the numbers will greatly increase. Sir John's slogan of 1891 has lost none of its force:—"A British subject I was born, and a British subject I will die."

During the recent illness of Rev. Dr. Joseph McLeod, editor of the Maritime Baptist, an article appeared in that publication favoring the Reciprocity Agreement with the United States. In the issue of the Maritime Baptist published last week, the following appears at the head of the editorial:—"The editor, still unable 'to do any work whatever on the paper, having had his 'attention called to the article entitled 'Reciprocity,' on 'page one of March 1st, feels impelled to repudiate 'every sentiment and shade of sentiment in it which 'approves of the proposed reciprocal trade arrangement 'now under consideration by the Parliaments of Can- 'ada and the United States. He regards the proposed 'Reciprocity Agreement as a deadly blow at the true 'National life of beloved Canada. He wants this state- 'ment of his strong conviction to go to his readers 'now, lest he may never pen another sentence. This 'is the day of our country's peril. God Save Canada!"

Current Comment

(Columbia.)

Lord Aylmer, ex-inspector General of the Canadian Forces, and all his life a supporter of the Liberal party, has declared himself opposed to any reciprocal arrangement with the United States. "It would prove a great hardship to the grower of small fruits in British Columbia, as the fruit growers of the four north-western States would flood the Canadian market. J. J. Hill is already preparing to bring the fruit products of the States into British Columbia. The Great Northern has a good entrance into Canada by Macleod, said his Lordship. Lord Aylmer is well acquainted with the fruit growing industry of British Columbia, having several large fruit farms at West Kootenay.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The Hamilton City Council is proposing to impose a tax of \$15 on the small stores that sell cigarettes. The idea is to lessen the consumption of what is considered tobacco in its worst form by restricting the number of places where it may be obtained. The reform may work out in the same way as Ontario's wholesale reduction of liquor licenses, and it will be some advantage for the city to limit the profits of the trade by sharing in them. Perhaps from the City Council's standpoint that would be a not undesirable result.

(Toronto News.)

Perhaps the usages of diplomacy require members of the Government to stand firm by the agreement which Mr. Fielding and Mr. Patterson brought from Washington. Perhaps international etiquette makes it necessary for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to issue to his followers an emergency call for unwavering support. But one is not familiar with any form of etiquette, ancient or modern, international or social, which compels a member of Parliament to stultify himself by voting contrary to his belief. Principle takes precedence over etiquette, honor over ceremonial.

(Belleville Ontario.)

She began smoking when she was 9 years old, and puffed away until she was 104, when the filthy habit took her off. She lived in Montreal. She did not begin with the mild cigarette. The little girl began with a strong clay pipe, laden with strong blackstrap, which was lighted with a live coal snatched from the household fire, and it took nearly a century of that sort of thing to carry her hence. But that is no reason why the young people of today should learn the expensive time-wasting, and—to many—offensive habit of smoking.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

If the Laurier Government has a right to change Canada's tariff policy without consulting either the people or their elected representatives beforehand, it has a right to change anything and everything else that the people have foolishly imagined was settled for keeps.

(Winnipeg Telegram.)

Western Canada hates this reciprocity agreement as deeply as Sir Wilfrid Laurier hates the West, and the West does not adopt the device of concealing its hatred under honeyed words.

(Schenectady Union.)

Someone wants to know what is the most beautiful line in the English language. "Paid in full" ought to get a place in the race.

RESTLESS BABIES

In nine cases out of ten, skin irritation is the cause. An occasional anointing with Zam-Buk balm, and the use of Zam-Buk Soap (50c. per tablet) in the bath will end the trouble. Wherever there are eruptions, rashes, or chapped places, apply Zam-Buk. This famous household balm is compounded from purely herbal essences, and is mild in its action. As scores of mothers daily testify, it is an ideal balm for the skin troubles of babies. Medical men and nurses concur. Zam-Buk is also so very useful in the family. Cures cuts, burns, skin troubles, eruptions, abscesses, ulcers, piles, eczema, and as a "first aid" preparation is without equal. All druggists and stores sell at 50c. box, or post free from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

To the Editor of The Standard.
Sir,—The massing of American troops on the Mexican frontier is a matter of more than ordinary importance, and is one which, under existing circumstances, the people of Canada would do well to study.

As far as is now known there is no good reason for such a movement, but may be some reason which is not forthcoming at the opportune time. It may be in the interest of peace, and to assist a sister republic to check disorder and protect life and property.

Mexico has had a "little unpleasantness" with some lawless marauders, assisted by sundry Americans of similar make-up, and although she declares she is quite able to suppress "the rebellion," lest she might be un- able to object to the United States government insists upon rendering her effective aid. With the facts of history recalled, does any one believe such a story? Does Mexico believe it? Does the exiled Queen of Hawaii believe it? Does any one anywhere believe it? NO, and echo answers NO.

It may be made for the purpose of acquiring fresh territory in which to settle the rapidly increasing population, and for which there is now but little left. Unlike the Briton, the American is no colonizer; he has had no experience to speak of, and his success in the Philippines, and in Porto Rico has not been very marked, and even Cuba, though practically ruled from Washington, has not led many to seek homes there.

He has preferred lands nearer home, having wherever there is a land, there is a way, he has managed to find a way and give a reason. And a reason will be found in this case of the United States to satisfy his land hunger. Indeed he has one already. Two Americans have been caught aiding the marauders and are now in a Mexican prison. Doubtless they will be regarded as patriots, sufferers for the right, and wrongfully deprived of their liberty. It will be easy to make out a case, their release may be demanded, may be refused, and the refusal followed by a war of conquest and confiscation. At least all this is possible, has been done before, and may be done again.

But it may mean nothing of the kind. What then? Perhaps it is only an object lesson for the benefit of the Canadians, an intimation of what may be done north of the line.

In a previous letter we have expressed the opinion that annexation will not be kept in the back ground, and the independence idea will be fostered and in some great crisis the thing will take shape and form, and a republic will be proclaimed and promptly recognized.

Even if Britain could help us, the Monroe doctrine would prevent her doing so, as she is herself a party to that doctrine. It is that no European power has any right to interfere in the affairs of this continent, and the recognition of Canadian independence would furnish a reason for the invoking of that doctrine as she by the loss of Canada would have ceased to be an American power.

In that case we would have to bow to the inevitable, the Union Jack would be replaced by the Stars and Stripes, the land we love so dearly and of which we are so proud would disappear from the map and from the Atlantic to the Pacific the entire country would become Americanized. No, not quite. In self defence Japan would possess herself of British Columbia and all beyond the Rockies would cease to be a white man's land. And the United States and the United States is sure to come at no distant day, and it is to our interest to keep ourselves free from American en- tanglements, either belted or bulleted, and remain connected with the great East again over the West.

But if we are true to ourselves, worthy of our glorious ancestry, refuse to be either belted or bulleted, and remain connected with the great East again over the West.

THIS WAS NO JOKE.

The other day over in the town of G— Ontario, Mrs. R. came into Mr. B's store and asked for a couple of packages of Dye. He was selling the Old Style Dye that requires a separate Dye for Wool and Cotton, and asked her if she knew what KIND of cloth her goods were made of. Mrs. R. said she wasn't sure, so he advised her to go home and make the following test:—

"First to take a small piece of the goods, and unravel out the threads each way of the cloth, then put a match to them. Cotton would be apt to burn freely with little odor. Wool might merely smolder and would be apt to give out a disagreeable odor, something like burning hair. Silk would burn less freely than Cotton and smell like burning Wool. Now, if it did not smell very much, she was to use a Dye for Cotton, if it did she was to use a Wool Dye, but she was to look out to see that it did not smell too much or too little."

Now, unfortunately, Mrs. R. had a cold in her head at the time, and couldn't smell ANYTHING, so she naturally thought that the goods were Cotton, and used the Cotton Dye. It turned out that her goods were really all Wool, and naturally her Dyeing was a failure. Since then B. has put in an assortment of the Guaranteed ONE DYE for ALL KINDS of Cloth, which does away with all chance of using the WRONG Dye for the Goods one has to color.

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