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Misleading Resolutions

From an authoritative, if somewhat unexpected source evidence is furnished that the resolutions adopted at the recent Liberal Convention at Ottawa were not intended to be taken seriously, that they don't mean what they say, and are mainly for the purpose of deceiving. The authority for this conclusion is none other than Hon. W. S. Fielding, one of the candidates for the Leadership, whose long political career, knowledge and Parliamentary experience amply qualify him to pass judgment. This is what Mr. Fielding says, in his paper, the Journal of Commerce: "Democracy has its disadvantages. It must be content to have much of its work done hurriedly, and consequently imperfectly. A very small committee, with ample time at its command for the study of the questions raised, would make a better platform than a committee of more than a hundred members, called upon to frame in a few hours declarations of policy on many very important questions. A very large committee at the Ottawa Liberal Convention, facing such a situation, was naturally obliged to deal, with little deliberation, with many resolutions, sent to it, and the convention to which the committee reported had to treat some of the recommendations in the same way. A smaller committee with ample time would probably have seen the wisdom of dealing with fewer questions and giving them fuller consideration. Many of the delegates it is safe to say, learned for the first time through the newspapers of resolutions which had been adopted by the convention as part of the party platform. The resolutions may be found to be all right. In some cases they may be regarded with less satisfaction when they come under analysis and criticism. Like the covenant of the League of Nations, the platform cannot now be amended. But, as Mr. Taft proposes in the case of the League, some of its friends may feel obliged to receive it with "interpretations and reservations." One is reminded of the old story of the colored porter of the Pullman car who remonstrated with his passengers for remaining outside. "You shouldn't stay here, gentlemen," said Sam, "that's not what the platform is for." "What is it for then, Sam?" "Platforms, gentlemen, is only to get in on." No doubt there were at the convention—as there must be at every Opposition political gathering—many men whose first thought is as to the paramount importance of getting in, leaving the future to take care of itself. But there may come a day of settlement, and those who are called upon to fulfill the agreement may have cause to regret the largeness of the order that was accepted. The most important part of the platform is that concerning the tariff. It might have been wiser, with an eye to the future, to deal more in principles and less in details. In their general character the tariff declarations are substantially in accord with the economic views which most Liberals have held in the past. If the Liberal ideas are being pressed further than in former

days, it is because events have made a large section of the party less disposed to moderation than they formerly were. The "interpretations and reservations," however, still leave room for a belief that the resolutions do not mean the extreme and alarming Policy that is being ascribed to them by some hostile critics.

Important Restrictive Measure

The fact cannot be too widely known that the Federal authorities have recently adopted a measure making it a "criminal" offence when fires are caused by carelessness. The Fire Commissioner of the city has had the first arrest made under the new Act. Overwhelming evidence has been brought before fire commissioners and others of recent years that an enormous percentage of fires was directly traceable to carelessness. In the hope of abating the evil Parliament passed the enactment in question. The clause decrees as follows:

"Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who by neglect causes any fire which occasions loss of life or loss of property."

A striking feature of the clause is that no "option" is given for a fine. That property should be destroyed in a single year to an amount of thirty-four million dollars; that in a country no more densely populated than Canada there are as many as seventeen hundred fires in a year, shows appalling negligence. Many cities abroad have legislation even more severe than that now sanctioned here. The Legislature of Pennsylvania enacts in addition to other serious penalties, "that persons guilty of carelessness in the starting of fires shall be liable in civil action for the payment of all costs and expenses incurred by the fire department in the extinguishing of fires. The amount of such costs shall be determined by the Director of the Department of Public Safety, based upon the wages of the Fire Department for the time they were engaged in the extinguishing, or the attempt to extinguish, such fire; also the cost of water used with an additional amount of ten per cent of the whole amount for supervisory or overhead charges—all of which shall be paid into the civic treasury." It is realized today, as never before, that if better economical conditions are to prevail, there must not only be curtailment of extravagance in living but curtailment as well of the country's colossal losses by fire waste.—Montreal Star.

London Morning Post: Bolshevism is, if boldly faced, by no means the invincible horror that the imagination of feeble politicians paints it. If existed before the war, for its doctrines are simply those of Revolutionary Syndicalism. In France the General Confederation of Labor once tried to overthrow the State, and all that happened was it was ignominiously defeated, because the Government was strong enough to stand up to it. "More pay and less work" is a cry that expresses the desires of the greater part of humanity. With the Bolshevik it becomes "pay and no work," and the end of it is utter ruin and calamity. Yet the majority of mankind knows that work is necessary and is quite ready to rally behind any man who has the courage to attack the Bolshevik fallacy. In any case, the weakest policy of all is first to make a show of defending civilization against Bolshevism and then to throw up the sponge without any effort.

The Scottish Gathering held at Charlottetown on Wednesday last was quite a success. The day was fine, the attendance was large and the sports were well carried out.

The Prince's Visit

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, heir to Britain's throne, visited our Province yesterday and departed in the evening on his itinerary to other parts of the Dominion. Assuredly the Prince captivated the hearts of all with whom he came in contact and left behind him the most pleasing memories of his visit. His Royal Highness has a specially warm feeling for Canada, so much so that he delights to consider himself a Canadian in sentiment, although born in Great Britain. The Prince's feelings in this respect have been engendered, we may be sure, in consequence of his association with our Canadian soldiers, with whom he fought side by side, in the trenches. His Royal Highness joined the army on the field, under General Sir Arthur Currie, Commander of the Canadian forces.

The Prince was accorded a most cordial and enthusiastic welcome in Charlottetown. The city was crowded with people and gay with flags, bunting and decorations of all kinds. Never before, we believe, was Charlottetown so thoroughly decorated, nor did it present such a gay appearance. The weather, too, was on the whole quite favorable. A few light showers fell, but they did not interfere with the carrying out of the prearranged programme.

The great ship Renown, which brought the Prince across the Atlantic, did not come into Charlottetown harbor, she is altogether too large. But one of her accompanying ships, the Dragon, brought the royal visitor in and anchored about the three tides. The Prince was brought from the Dragon to the landing in a pinnace. The landing was made about 11.30, and after the brief formalities on the Marine wharf, the procession of automobiles was immediately formed and proceeded to the Provincial Building, where addresses were presented from the Government and from the city, read by Premier Arsenault and Mayor Wright, respectively. To both the addresses the Prince replied in most felicitous terms. A large number of citizens were presented to the Prince in the Legislative Chamber.

After the procession had made a tour of Victoria Park all repaired to the Prince of Wales College, where luncheon was served. A large company sat down to the dainty meal, spread on the handsomely decorated tables in the grand hall of the College. His Honor, Chief Justice Mathieson, Administrator of the Government, presided, having around him on his right and left, His Royal Highness the Prince, his Lordship the Bishop of Charlottetown, Hon. Premier Arsenault, etc.

At the close of the luncheon the toast to the King, proposed by his Honor the Administrator, was received with regulation honors. The toast to the Prince was then proposed by Premier Arsenault, and most appropriately and felicitously responded to by His Royal Highness. He concluded his speech by proposing a toast to the Administrator. His Honor made a most happy response. The festivities then concluded with the National Anthem. After luncheon the Prince was taken to the Experimental farm, and thence to the trotting park, where he enjoyed the races for about an hour.

At five o'clock an immense assemblage of people repaired to Brighton Villa, the residence of the Lieutenant Governor, where a garden party was given by the Administrator and Mrs. Mathieson. The numerous guests were received by his Honor and Mrs. Mathieson and presented to the Prince. Dainty refreshments were served, and a short programme of dances was carried out, the music being furnished by the ship's band. The Prince led off in the dancing with Miss Helen Mathieson, daughter of the Administrator. At six o'clock his Royal Highness was conveyed to the ship, and shortly afterwards she started out the harbor and the Prince's visit was over. There were fireworks and other festivities in the evening.

Washington Pleased

London, Aug. 13.—Viscount Grey, it is learned, has not yet decided when he will go to Washington, although announcement of his plans is expected soon. His poor eyesight, which has given him much trouble, caused him to consent to only a short term as ambassador. A year ago it was heard he might become blind, but since then his eyes have improved although he still does but little reading or writing.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Confusion arising out of the peace settlement, which Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons today would require the attention of Viscount Grey, the new British Ambassador to the United States, are understood here to include a readjustment of the complicated financial relations between Great Britain and the States growing out of loans and credits advanced by America. There also must be an almost immediate recasting of many existing treaties between the two countries, necessitated by the radical changes following the war. Many of these conventions date back for more than a century and were said by officials to have been applied to modern conditions only by the exercise of the greatest liberality of construction. The LaFollette shipping law swept away completely one treaty relating to the rights and duties of sailors and port authorities, and this never has been replaced.

In the early days of the war there were many issues between the State Department and the British Foreign Office growing out of interference with American commerce by British warships and British orders-in-council and the many claims for damages by American ship-owners and merchants pending when the United States entered the war are still technically open. Viscount Grey is British secretary for foreign affairs when these issues arose and conducted the negotiations for his Government. There has been a suggestion, too, that conditions in Mexico were such as to demand consideration on an international basis in view of the large interests of foreign investors, and especially British, in that country. For a number of years the British Government has refrained from enforcing demands upon Mexico for reparation for the killing of British subjects and for heavy monetary losses inflicted on British individuals, preferring to leave to the United States the adoption of measures to meet these conditions. It is believed now that one of the first duties of Viscount Grey will be to attempt a permanent settlement of the British issues with the Mexican Government after reaching a satisfactory understanding with the American State Department.

Announcement that Viscount Grey was to come to Washington was received with keen gratification by Secretary Lansing and other American officials, who had had dealings with him either personally in Europe or through correspondence. There was regret, however, that Viscount Grey's service in Washington was to be only temporary as it was felt that the successful treatment of the many important international subjects which will devolve upon the new ambassador could be best assured only through a reasonably permanent term in office of the negotiator.

Six Months On Ice

Edmonton, Alb., Aug. 13.—Six months adrift on an ice floe in the Arctic Sea, cut off from all civilization by miles of deep water, such was the experience of Storker T. Storkersen, who arrived in the city last night from the great northern waste. Observations of great scientific value were made while the party was on the ice, but these will not be fully discussed until Storkersen meets his chief, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, in Banff next Saturday and prepares his full report. Stefansson was taken ill at the last moment and Storkersen, being second in command, was forced to take command of the

party and proceed without the other explorer. So in the spring of 1918, after all preliminary arrangements had been made he set out from Border Island on March 15 with 10 men, 80 dogs and 8 sleds.

The object before the daring little party was to stay for one year if possible on an ice floe and drift during this time. They wished to determine the currents, if any, in Beaufort Sea, to take soundings and to discover any new land that might not have been sighted before. Four months after the party went adrift on the floe Storkersen was taken ill with asthma, brought on by the extreme cold and it was decided to return to shore. The rest of the party depended entirely upon his directions and had been totally incapacitated they would have perished. Thus it was imperative that a return be made before he was too ill to be moved. On October 9, 1918, the party, then being at latitude 74 longitude of 147 W., started again for the American continent and arrived at Cape Halkett on November 7. From Cape Halkett they proceeded to Border Island where they fell in with Captain Anderson from whom they got supplies for the winter of 1912.

The trip was absolutely the first of its kind. No other living man has ever deliberately set himself adrift on an ice floe for scientific purposes. Taking everything into consideration the journey was most satisfactory. In the first place it was found that there were no permanent currents in the sea. The ice floe drifted with the wind and its course appeared to be determined by that agent alone. Owing to certain phenomena observed by Mr. Storkersen he was inclined to think that there was land to the north of the point reached. The reason for this supposition was the fact that in this six months the floe turned completely around.

The huge floe was seven miles in length and at least 15 miles in width. Seals, Polar bears, ducks, gulls, and land birds abounded on it, while shrimps and small fish appeared to be the chief food of the seals. As a result of the strange voyage much important information was gleaned. Keenan Land, which was supposed to be discovered by Captain Keenan, was found to be non-existent. At least there was no land at latitude 74 and between longitude 140-W52, which was where Keenan placed his find. Instead of land was water from 500 metres to 4,500 metres deep. Mr. Storkersen strongly recommended the Government's plan of commercializing the musk ox.

The Commerce Court

The Board of Commerce held its first meeting in Ottawa on Thursday last, and issued the following order: "Upon reading section 23 of the Combines and Fair Prices Act, whereby it is declared that all proceedings instituted or had under order-in-council P.C. 3069 of the eleventh day of December, 1918, shall continue and may proceed under part 2 of said act as by said section authorized. It is ordered that all persons, firms and corporations here before required by virtue of said order of any order previously made to the same or like effect, the proceedings whereunder have been continued under said order-in-council P.C. 3069, shall hereafter make and render from time to time, as was required by said order-in-council P.C. 3069, unto this board, at its offices at Ottawa, complete and faithful returns of the nature specified in the said order-in-council P.C. 3069." This was signed by H.A. Robson, K.C., Chief Commissioner, and W. F. O'Connor, K.C., Assistant Chief Commissioner.

Section 23 of the Combines and Fair Prices Act provides that: "All proceedings instituted or had under order-in-council P.C. 3069 of the eleventh day of December, 1918, but not fully concluded, shall continue and may proceed under this part of the act, with the board (Board of Commerce) substituted for the Minister of Labor, as fully and effectually as if said order-in-

council continued in force, notwithstanding the remission thereof."

Section 19 of the act constituting the board gives the board power, by noting in writing under the hand of the life secretary, to "require any person who operates, controls or manages any cold storage plant, packing house, cannery, factory, mine, warehouse, or other premises in which, or in any part of which, any necessary of life is prepared, manufactured, produced or held by such person for himself or for another, or who in any manner deals in any necessary of life, to make and render unto such board, and to the Dominion statistician, within a time set in such notice, or from time to time, and such person shall make and render unto such board or statistician precisely as required a written return under oath and affirmation."

The subsections set forth in detail that the person notified shall show the species and amount of any necessary of life held at any indicated time or times; the time when any or all of such necessary of life was prepared, manufactured, produced, acquired or taken into possession; cost of such, including, all charges and expenses affecting same; price at which it has been sold, or, if unsold, the price for which it is held, and other such information as the board may require, including a full disclosure of all contracts or agreements affecting the prices of necessities, of life or the time for which they are to be held, or limiting the quantity which should be sold to any one buyer or combination of buyers, or within any limited district. It is further provided that if the board's order is ignored by any person dealing in or holding necessities of life and a return is not made within the given time, the board may appoint examiners and investigate the business and examine all papers, books, premises and records of the person failing to make returns, and the same course may be followed if returns made, in the judgment of the board, justify such action. The act also provides that no one may impede the board or its examiners, and every person required to give evidence touching any case before the board shall attend and give evidence whenever so required.

The order of yesterday was pursuant to the above sections of the Act. The effect of the order is that the office of Cost of Living Commissioner being now abolished, the system of investigation established by Mr. O'Connor in 1916, and continued by him until his resignation two years later, is fully restored and will be augmented in its scope. So far as possible, the former staff will be gathered together under the jurisdiction of the board. Rigorous compliance with the requirements of the new act and the board's order will be enforced," according to the statement issued at the close of the session.

"All the records made under the previously prevailing investigation system will be secured and taken over by the board, and in addition as soon as the board can make the arrangements, and before the lapse of many weeks, the full board will in joint session, visit all the principal cities of Canada and conduct therein open courts of enquiry into cost and price conditions and the means of remedying these conditions. Only such delay will ensue before the board sets out as is imperatively necessary in order to enable intelligent enquiry. "In the meantime, the board is organizing its personnel and preparing its itinerary. "When the intended sittings are held, they will be open to all who wish to complain or testify, or defend allegations made. No formality whatever, nor any notice will be required. Afterwards, from the information on hand and to be gained while on its itinerary, the board will take such action as to it should seem proper by way of general remedy. Special remedies will be applied as the occasion for the application arises."

Sir Robert Borden, who intended to be with the Prince at Charlottetown, remained on board the ship, in consequence of his sprained ankle, elsewhere referred to.

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