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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 9, 1904.

AFTER THE BATTLE

One is tempted to say there is something coming in the tragic mood affected by some of the defeated candidates and newspapers here and there throughout the Dominion. The tragic mood, when born of political happenings, does not last long in Canada and they who voluntarily assume sackcloth and ashes in mourning their own defeat or what seems to them the folly of the electorate receive the little thanks they deserve.

A recurring feature of the great political contest in the Dominion is the tendency of some men to bluster in defeat, and hint darkly at vengeance to be wreaked upon all who have voted against them. Especially is it a state custom here as in other places to demand a basket filled with the official heads of government employees who are suspected of having voted against the government. Most men who are worth their salt vote as they like, and will remain quietly or quietly, any attempt to hold the whip over them because of the nature of their employment or the real or fancied obligations with which they stand charged. There is much condemnation of "machine methods," yet every party really seeks to establish an effective machine to be used on the day of battle. It is the mistake of some men to imagine that the machine is to be governed by fear. Self-interest may hold it together. Good will and a measure of self-interest together is commonly regarded as the best recipe; but fear of consequences is notoriously a cook that will not fight on election day.

It is not desirable that any body of men disregard the virtue of public life and vote against as one man because of some motive apart from the issue. If that be done the jury is packed and does not find according to the evidence. Thus it is that the repeated threat to punish suspected government employees for sins of omission or commission on election day is rarely effective and is recognized as one due to a false and improper view of the rights and duties of good citizenship. And in St. John, as even men in the first bitterness of defeat should know, the threat is badly shop-worn.

In looking over the political battlefield one cannot but view the funeral cortege held yesterday by the Halifax Herald. The Herald uses a great deal of red ink and is a party shouter of the most vociferous character. Some few weeks ago Conservatives were condemning it, and talking about starting another party organ because the Herald had printed one of Hon. W. S. Fielding's speeches in extenso. The speech was printed as an advertisement, and was paid for by the Liberal organization, but the Conservatives were very angry. As the campaign drew to a close the Herald grew more and more sanguine in its estimate of the opposition's chances in Nova Scotia, and by Wednesday last was apparently convinced that no Liberal would be elected in that province. Yesterday morning, when it had to announce the news that no Conservative had been elected in Nova Scotia, that the country had retained the government, and that Mr. Borden was among the fallen, the Herald stretched a thick line of blood red type across the first page reading: "All is lost save honor!" There are, doubtless, both philosophers and men with some sense of humor in the Herald office, but either they were off duty Thursday night or were convinced that the public mood was as tragic as their own.

The articles printed regarding the election here, by the Portland, Maine, newspapers, show that in Portland at least the argument that the Grand Trunk connection means the diversion of Canadian freight to that port, is regarded as sound. In this country all classes and parties are united in the belief that the traffic should not go by that outlet but through Canadian ports. The proof is to come. If new safeguards can be found, or if railroad improvements in this province and Quebec could be of such a character as to minimize the Portland menace, all would be glad. The people have approved the G. T. Pacific scheme, but the surveys have yet to be heard from. We are leaving the realm of argument and approaching the field of hard facts about curves and gradients. The detailed reports of the engineers may be highly instructive. What the engineering difficulties are we should know before very long, at least so far as concerns that portion of the proposed

transcontinental which will directly affect the ports of the Maritime Provinces.
St. John, the election over, will still find many important questions affecting the port which will call for consideration by the Common Council and Board of Trade, in both of which men of both parties should meet on common ground for united effort in the city's interests.

ANOTHER CONFERENCE

An Ottawa correspondent remarks that as soon as Canadians have discussed and accepted the result of Thursday's election they will do well to turn their attention to the question of the next Colonial conference at London. Mr. Balfour is pledged to call such a conference after the British elections if he remains in power, and if he is beaten, no doubt his successor in office will not long postpone the action Mr. Balfour speaks of. The British premier's view is that closer Imperial ties are necessary. He would discover, at the proposed conference, whether the Colonies agree with him in this, and if so, what steps are advisable and agreeable to all parties. In a recent speech he said the representatives of the free governing colonies and India "should meet in order to talk out this subject in the freest possible manner, without being bound by special views or special instructions, knowing that we have to face a complicated problem, knowing that the fiscal views on the economic case of the colonies differ from the fiscal views and the economic conditions of the country, knowing of the hampering effect of old traditions and new prejudices on one side or the other—that we should meet and unfettered to discuss with each other, in the first place, whether this ideal of fiscal union is one which commends itself to us; in the second place—for I have no doubt as to what the answer to the first question will be—in the second place, to consider how it shall be carried out." The essence of this scheme, he added, was that the delegates should discuss the question with absolute freedom. Further, the various self-governing communities must "have the right to appeal to their respective electorates as to any scheme which may be hammered out. Of course, if they claim that liberty, as I am sure they will, that liberty, that necessity must be equally claimed by us."

It would, of course, be considered essential to submit any plan upon which the conference might decide to the judgment of the people of every Colony. These matters will occupy much time, and it is well that they should. New links should be well forged, and fully discussed before they are forged. In Canada the talk of British politicians who sometimes seem to question our loyalty is regarded as foolish and injurious. The British elections over, we shall all know how the British electors feel concerning the general principle advocated by Mr. Chamberlain. If they are for it there can be no doubt that the general principle will find hearty support in Canada. Indeed it has already found much support. The Colonial conference will quickly test the practicability of the plan, and unless England's own attitude shall be found to raise difficulties, the plan should be practicable enough. Mr. Chamberlain finds Mr. Balfour over cautious and slow, but the younger man's suggestions, while less hasty, have a great deal to commend them, and have quite as much weight as those of the former Colonial Secretary.

RECIPROCITY ANXIETY

The Lowell (Mass.) Sun is growing more anxious about reciprocity with Canada and intimates that the issue will not die out after the presidential election next Tuesday. The Sun says:
"According to the Minneapolis Times, the Pillsbury-Washburn and Washburn Greybe companies will grind large quantities of Canadian wheat in bread this winter, which is a reminder that the flour mills of Minneapolis will soon have to depend upon the fields of Canada for a large portion of their raw material. This will become necessary, not because the yield of spring wheat states has reached and passed the high mark, but because domestic consumption of flour in the United States is increasing at a far greater rate than wheat production so that the time must come when the great exporting mills must find a larger base of supplies."
"Canada is the convenient source and indeed the only available source of supply for these mills after the American supply of wheat has been exhausted. The bond mill expedient is not satisfactory in its present form, but it is the only resource for the millers at the present time."
"With good wheat crops for a few years the demand may not become acute; but far-sighted, intelligent men as the millers undoubtedly are, say that as a protection to their industry it is imperative that there shall be some reduction in the tariff so that they can import their raw material from Canada when the home supply is insufficient as it is likely to be henceforward. There is here a fresh and indeed an unexpected cause for reciprocal trade relations with Canada in the article of wheat. The price of flour has repeatedly reached enormous figures here because of the short wheat crop but with a reduced tariff on Canadian wheat the people of this country would have some protection against the effect of short crops or the effect sometimes equally dangerous of speculation by the money kings. For the benefit of the whole people the protection bars should be lowered on Canadian wheat. The duty on Canadian wheat is 25 cents a bushel, the price of best Manitoba wheat being 98 cents a bushel, while the same quality of wheat in Minnesota sells for

\$1.21 and 81.22 a bushel. It is thus seen how the tariff wall keeps up the price of this staple."
The Lowell Sun will probably discover some months hence that Republican interest in reciprocity was for campaign purposes only. The protected interests are supreme at Washington, and are likely to continue so.

SAFETY ON THE I. C. R.

The Amherst Telegram mentions a report—which it does not substantiate—to the effect that the recent fatal railroad accident at Oxford Junction was due to the employment of an inexperienced man for work requiring practice and skill. The Telegram intimates that the inexperienced man was appointed because of his politics. No definite charge is made and no one is named. The important thing is not what the Telegram says about the case, but that the real cause of the accident should be established by competent evidence. Then, if the inquiry be thorough, we shall know what we are talking about.
That the party in power will continue to use the Intercolonial for political purposes is, we presume, to be expected. But the public which regards safety and efficiency as of more importance than politics, will demand that the people's money be paid only to competent railroad men whose errors will kill neither trainmen nor passengers. All are interested in the railroad, and most have sufficient direct interest in its operation to desire the assurance that every possible precaution is used to prevent accidents. No man likes to think his life may be endangered by political expediency. Not because the Telegram has heard a rumor, but because every case of the kind should be investigated closely, the people generally will expect to know more about the occurrence at Oxford Junction.

THEIR CONFIDENCE

In an Associated Press despatch about the presidential election the writer, in summarizing the canvass of the Democrats, says they charge the Republicans with refusing or neglecting to secure reciprocity with Canada.
Here crops up again the calm assumption that reciprocity, even as it is understood in New England, may be had for the asking. Even a journal usually so well informed as the New York Evening Post, in discussing our elections, asserts that the Canadian government is favorable to reciprocity and stands ready to reassemble the Joint High Commission.
It is on record, as a matter of fact, that this government, declined to discuss the reciprocity question or another session of that commission until definite assurances were forthcoming from Washington that the United States is prepared to make such concessions as would make another trade treaty seem feasible. Mr. Roosevelt's election is regarded as reasonably certain. He has said the United States tariff shall be amended only by its protectionist friends.

In the face of these facts reciprocity very closely resembles a dead issue. Certain United States newspapers, the Post included, say the recent elections here show that Mr. Chamberlain's scheme has few friends in Canada. It is noteworthy that neither party opposed it and it is a fact that neither party dared oppose it openly. Had reciprocity been an issue it would have been assailed as never before, and Mr. Chamberlain's policy would have been mainly responsible.

THE INQUEST GOES ON

The Sun and the Globe go on with the political inquest. The Globe summoned as witnesses last evening many of the gentlemen who signed the nomination papers of the city candidates, for the avowed purpose of proving how great and good Mr. O'Brien is. The Globe affects to forget that however admirable Mr. O'Brien may be personally the people of this constituency have just rebuked his candidacy most forcefully. But the Globe and the Sun will continue to make unkind remarks about each other, a post-election exercise which may become instructive if carried far enough.
The Globe puts forward certain objections to the manager as well as to the editor of the Sun, as if suspecting the manager of some particular magnificence toward Mr. O'Brien. The Globe's references to the manager of the Sun are spoken by some as perhaps due to recent reports that the Sun might be bought by a Liberal company. These reports, which so far as we know are entirely without present warrant, have represented the Sun's manager as willing to sell. The Globe may think one newspaper inside the Liberal party breathes words of truth.
Mr. O'Brien has had his fling politically. Personally he was not at all fiercely assailed, so far as has been noticed, and perhaps if his wishes were consulted he would not be willing to have his name omitted from further controversy. Why does the Sun continue to jump on Mr. O'Brien now that he is out of the game? And why does the Globe persist in reminding him and his friends of their defeat by repeating with new emphasis all that the Sun says of him? There seems to be more in the controversy than is to be seen on the surface.

EVIL REVELATIONS

On previous occasions investigations of the Montreal police department have been started. It appears that at last the system of police corruption believed to exist in that city is to be exposed and remedied.

The decision of the council to accept Chief Leppert's resignation does not, it may be assumed, mean that he is to escape responsibility if it be found that he permitted and shared in the extortion of blood money from the criminals and unfortunates of the city. The despatches this morning hint at conditions common in many of the greater cities of the United States, conditions so shameful as to horrify all good citizens—the more so because in most cases one blackmailing police department is followed by another.
There are few human creatures so mean as the policeman of any rank who uses his official position to wrest from the degraded some portion of the wages of their infamy. It seems inconceivable that such loathsome partnership exists on an extensive scale anywhere in Canada, yet the revelations made or foreshadowed in Montreal indicate that proof is at hand.

PORT ARTHUR

"We read only after weeks the story of the assault on Port Arthur by which, in the last days of August, Nogi got his foot held below the Lincote semicircle. The story of warfare holds no more sensational page. For many days the battle swayed over ground netted with wire and planted with mines. At night the searchlights guided the cannonading. Estimates of the losses are the merest speculation; but one learns of Japanese regiments that brought back only a tenth from the charge, of single unsuccessful attacks that cost 1,500 lives, of daily losses of a hundred men in stationary protected positions. Quarter was neither asked nor given on either side, no truce was accorded for the removal of the wounded or the burial of the dead, and pestilence in the beleaguering camp added to these horrors. In the end, after a sacrifice of lives which must be reckoned by scores of thousands, the Japanese were reduced to regular siege operations by parallels."—New York Post.

And now, by all accounts, the magnificent defense of the garrison has been maintained to the limit of endurance. The best opinion at hand all points one way, and is conclusive that the great siege is about over. However have been multiplied in Manchuria, but no writer has been able to give to the world an adequate story of Stoen's grim heroes within the walls. Of Nogi's men without we have had startling glimpses, and they appear as figures of almost superhuman energy, courage and staying power. The siege of late has taken on the old-time form of mining and countermining and slow approach by zig-zag trenches in the face of withering fire. It has been demonstrated that the modern fortress is not to be pounded into submission by siege artillery at long range, but must be taken by the slow methods of former times. Even now it is expected that the Japanese will take the city piece by piece—that the city proper and the dockyards will be taken while some of the western forts are still resisting. Once the Russian ships in harbor are driven out or sunk by their owners the western forts will be of little consequence. The moral effect of Port Arthur's fall will count most. The practical value of the port to Russia would be little unless the Baltic fleet should really prove formidable. But it is not expected to reach eastern waters. Port Arthur down, there will still remain the unfinished grapple about Mukden. Beaten decisively before Mukden Russia might cry "Enough."

NOTE AND COMMENT

Dr. Christie fears there is too much fire-water in the fire department.
There is apparently nothing in the story that Mr. McKewen is to run in Victoria-Madawaska.
The political inquest goes on, and the Globe and the Sun evince some tendency to bicker over the corpus delicti. One might almost suspect that neither journal is wholly pleased with the result of Nov. 3.
The New York Herald says Canada has given Mr. Chamberlain's policy a black eye. Canada has not passed upon that policy yet. The British electors have not yet said. Canada is not crossing any bridges before she comes to them.
The success of the Liberal party in the Canadian elections certainly means much to the port of Portland, as it does, also, of course, to the Grand Trunk's eastern outlet generally—Portland (Me.) Advertiser.
For small favors, etc.
The annual trouble over the distribution of berths at Sand Point has cropped up. Considering how limited is the number these berths are probably the most troublesome in the world. Some of the steamship companies or agents seem to have more friends at City Hall than the others.
Ald. McDougall would have a new city hall, and one is needed. Before it is planned, the council should revise the assessment system. As matters stand now some men pay their own taxes and a share of the taxes of others. The Mayor has the matter in mind, evidently; but a new measure should be ready before the legislature is called.
One wishes the following were written about St. John. It appears in the Boston Journal:
"Portland, Me., Nov. 4.—The victory of the Liberals over the Conservatives in the Canadian elections means that this city is destined to become, within a decade, one of the most important export cities on the Atlantic coast. The victory means the Grand Trunk railway, with its Atlantic terminal here will be pushed from Winnipeg to the Pacific coast and that all along this great transcontinental railroad the products for export will be, for the most part, shipped directly to Portland. The highest officials of the Grand Trunk, the officials of this city and all others who are

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We'd like the opportunity to prove to every man who needs an overcoat that he can save from \$2.50 to \$5.00 if he buys it here. The proof is as plain as the nose on your face—if you'll but come. **Prices \$6 to \$20**

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If unbiased comparison hadn't proved beyond peradventure that the "Oak Hall" boys' suits and overcoats were not the very best value anywhere at the different prices, we'd not invite confusion by saying so. It is easy to say "best." But we stand by our statement at every stage of the analysis

- in materials and patterns
 - in making and "findings"
 - in style, fit and general up-to-dateness
- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Russian Suits, 2 1-2 to 7 years | \$5.00 to \$7.00 |
| Norfolk Suits, 6 to 12 years | 2.50 to 6.00 |
| Sailor Suits, 3 to 10 years | .75 to 12.00 |
| Star Sailor Suits, 3 to 10 years | 5.00 to 8.00 |
| Buster Brown Suits, 2 1-2 to 7 years | 4.50 to 7.00 |
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MR. McALLISTER'S VIEWS

Ex-M. P. of Restigouche Discusses the Recent Elections.
John McAllister, of Campbellton, ex-M. P. for Restigouche, came to the city Monday on business and registered at the Royal. Speaking of the recent general election he said that in his native county improper influences were used by the government to sway the election. As to the G. T. P. railway scheme, the people on the north shore were unanimous in condemning it. It would serve no good interest and if built through the centre of the province it would deal a death blow to the I. C. R., which it would parallel from Riviere du Loup to Moncton. Besides that, it would be detrimental to the lumber interests. The road for a good part of the way would traverse a country which was covered with forest and incoming settlers would bring the danger of forest fires. It was built down the St. John river valley the effect on the I. C. R. would be almost equally disastrous as it would be a shorter line from the west to the sea and the I. C. R. got a great deal of its freight from the Grand Trunk and other lines which penetrated that country.
Speaking of the I. C. R., Mr. McAllister gave it as his opinion that the reason it did not pay was that it did not penetrate beyond Montreal but was dependent to a large extent on the good faith of the Grand Trunk, which did not keep its promises. Mr. McAllister warmly endorsed R. L. Borden's alternative scheme of building the railway entirely out of the public treasury and then committing the management to an independent commission. Such a commission, he continued, should be composed of experienced men who should have an entirely free hand and should be dismissed from office only on charges of incompetence or mismanagement clearly established. The members of this commission should also be prohibited from taking any active part in political campaigns.
Towards the result in the two local constituencies, he continued, the press of St. John had helped as well as in York and Kings-Albert. In the west he thought the same influences were at work to result in his native county had been brought into play allied with the powerful influence of the Grand Trunk (which is the same as the G. T. P.) in every town and village of Ontario.
Speaking of the action of the Conservative leader in Quebec provincial politics, Mr. McAllister said he thought he had taken a very wise course as most likely the Liberal party would fight among themselves. Commenting on the result there, he thought there must have been discussion between the O'Brien-McKewen factions of the government party.

Got Their Wish.

A. B. Stuckey, the president of the Chicago Great Western railroad, has returned from a tour of Europe with an enhanced opinion of America's excellence.
"I have seen the world," he said, "and I am truly in all things. Here we are not like the Italian peasants, whose crops were so scanty that they had to beg for two a year. I heard the story of these peasants from a prince in Rome. He said that on the coronation of a certain king the peasants met together, agreed on what they wanted, and chose a spokesman to lay their case before the new ruler."
"Like the folks he represented, the spokesman was simple-minded. He obtained an audience with the king, and, bowing low, he said:
"Your majesty is so stranger to the poverty of our country. Your majesty knows well that so poor is the land its produce only nourishes the people half the year. The other half of the year we are compelled, like swine, to live on chestnuts."
"Now, sir, we have been informed that by virtue of your royal birth you are possessed of powers more than human—in brief, magical powers. We beseech you, therefore, to relieve our distressful poverty. We beseech you to give our country such fertility that, instead of one harvest, we may hereafter have two each year."
"The king was wise and witty. This petition of his people amused him, and he answered it thus:
"I grant, friends, your desire willingly. Two harvests annually shall be yours hereafter. And I add yet another favor. Whereas other countries have a year of but twelve months, you shall have one of twenty-four."
Back from the watering place.
With a beautiful coating of tan.
She comes to make glad the faithful heart Of her regular city young man.
—Chicago Tribune.