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HOW THE GOVERNMENT TREATS WESTERN SETTLERS

These Provinces Pay a Surplus in Postal Revenue and Receive Inadequate Facilities--More Graft on Transcontinental--Sliphod Methods at Experimental Farms--Liberals Aid Franchise Grabbers.

Robbing the Settler

The Conservatives recently extracted from Mr. Lemieux, the Postmaster General, a set of figures showing what proportion of the postal revenue extracted from that province is spent within it in providing mail facilities. The list is:

Table showing postal revenue distribution: Ontario 80 per cent, Manitoba 88 per cent, Quebec 92 per cent, Saskatchewan 93 per cent, Alberta 94 per cent, British Columbia 97 per cent, Nova Scotia 124 per cent, New Brunswick 129 per cent, Prince Edward Island 153 per cent.

Put in another way, of every hundred dollars which Ontario contributes to the postal revenues, twenty dollars are sent east to help the Maritime provinces; of every hundred dollars which Manitoba spends, twelve are sent east, and so on. On the other hand, the Maritime provinces pay far less to the postal revenues than they receive in postal services.

It will be seen that Ontario gets far less in proportion to her giving than any other Province. There is, perhaps, however, no great objection to Ontario contributing something to help Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island along. But what will rivet attention is the revelation that the new, the Pioneer Provinces, actually are being bled for the east.

One would suppose that Eastern Canada would follow the settler on the lonely prairie or the sprawling mountain valley with an adequate postal service. One would suppose that pains would be taken to give him an ample mail service. His lot is hard enough; at all events Canada might be generous and give him a little more of a mail service than the revenue contributed by him in postage stamps would warrant.

The contrary is the case. The Post Office pursues a niggardly and grudging policy towards the settler. It makes every little group of pioneers pay full value and more for every service rendered. It actually takes some of his hard earned dollars and sends them east to help old established communities; three dollars out of every hundred in the case of British Columbia, six dollars in the case of Saskatchewan, seven in Alberta, and twelve in Manitoba.

That is how the Post Office Department helps the settler. Graft on Trans-Continental We may continue the list of cases of gross over-classification on the Trans-continental. Here are two more: Case No. 14--The Government engineers reported on this cutting that there were 4,730 cubic yards of solid rock, 9,672 yards of loose rock, and only 2,807 yards of earth. Thus the people paid \$14,686 for this piece of work. Mr. Lumsden's note was: "Dug in places to test it, good ballast; whole cut common excavation; might be a few yards of rock in boulders." Thus if we allow 17,000 of the 17,289 cubic yards to be solid rock, we get a proper price of \$5,455. The over-payment was \$9,231, or 189 per cent.

Case No. 15--The people pay for 996 yards solid rock, 1,047 yards of loose rock, 8,860 yards common excavation; working out at \$3,877. Mr. Lumsden said there was no solid rock, and only a small amount of loose rock. Putting this at 50 yards, we get the result that it should have cost only \$2,304. The over-payment is \$1,574, or 162 per cent.

No. 10--Proper cost, \$3,608; actual cost, \$10,462; over-payment, \$6,854; or 100 per cent. No. 11--Proper cost, \$311; actual cost, \$997; over-payment, \$686; or 222 per cent. No. 12--Proper cost, \$3,124; actual cost, \$9,204; over-payment, \$6,080; or 194 per cent. No. 13--Proper cost, \$5,844; actual cost, \$16,577; over-payment, \$10,733; or 183 per cent. No. 14--Proper cost, \$5,455; actual cost, \$14,686; over-payment, \$9,231; or 169 per cent. No. 15--Proper cost, \$2,304; actual cost, \$3,877; over-payment, \$1,574; or 68 per cent.

On the whole 15 cases the figures are: Proper cost, \$89,596; actual cost, \$282,018; over-payment, \$192,422; or almost exactly 200 per cent.

Thus on this long list of actual examples, the work cost thrice the honest figure. Criticized Mr. Fisher Mr. Fisher had a bad time the other day in trying to put his estimates through committee of supply. He submitted the vote for Experimental Farms, and a real farmer, Mr. Sexsmith, of East Peterborough, took him in hand.

Mr. Sexsmith is one of the new men on the Conservative side; he is a practical farmer, and he has proven to be one of those members who know one or two subjects, are ready to discuss those with point and accuracy, and keep quiet on other topics. As soon as he started going he had the Minister of Agriculture, usually so superior, on the defensive--admitting, explaining, palliating, apologizing, defending. Withal, he did it with a lightness of touch which was a merit in itself. He made his points with a light hand--made them and left them. He did not denounce--he brought out the facts and let them speak for themselves. But let us see what he did.

Case No. 1--"Of course, said Mr. Sexsmith, urbanely, the Central Farm is an Experimental one. He had noticed in his visits one or two curious experiments. For example, certain implements--plows, etc.--had been stored away for the winter uncleaned, un-oiled, uncares for, with the clay still adhering to them; doubtless this was an experiment, to see what effect clay had upon implements when allowed to remain in contact with them for a few months at a time. Again, he had seen some valuable and complicated machinery in an open shed, with several inches of ice adhering to certain delicate parts of the work. Of course, this must be another experiment, to see how ice and machinery agree.

Mr. Fisher threw up his hands. They were short of room for storage. That particular shed was unfinished, etc. etc. Perhaps Mr. Fisher was reflecting upon the energetic advice which emanates from his Department to plain, ordinary farmers to house their machinery. Case No. 2--The hogs at the Experimental Farm or some of them, are housed under extraordinary filthy conditions. It happened that Mr. Sexsmith looked over the farm at the close of last session, and he had gone over it again some months later, during recess, and he knew that the very unpleasant conditions which he described had continued for a very long time.

Again the Minister had to do a lot of explaining and apologizing and admitting. Case No. 3--Mr. Sexsmith was not pleased with the Avonshire herd. He admitted that their looks are excellent; but he had taken the precaution of being at a milking, and one of the heifers had given the magnificent amount of eleven pounds. That, said Mr. Sexsmith, is not enough.

Mr. Fisher loudly defended the reputation and honor of his herd. The average of the herd is 8,500 pounds of milk per cow per year, he cried, 400 pounds of butter. To which Mr. Sexsmith stubbornly made reply that he had seen that eleven pounds.

Not exactly as another case, but as a general impression, Mr. Sexsmith told of a visit paid by about four hundred farmers of Central Ontario to the Experimental Farm, which he had accompanied. These farmers were familiar with the Guelph farm, and they knew that the resources behind the Provincial establishment were far less ample than those behind the one at Ottawa. They came expecting to find something enormously better than could be found at Guelph. And they did not. One point which seemed to

have provoked notice was a general lack of tidiness--an over-abundance of "eyesores."

And so Mr. Sexsmith made his bow and retired, having done a thoroughly good piece of criticism and made the Honorable Slidy sit up. The man who knows had once more beaten the theorist. Fighting for the Franchise Grabbers Mr. Connee's repeated efforts to grab water powers have been notorious. The other day by desperate efforts the Conservatives succeeded in killing one of the worst of his bills, the Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg "Canal" scheme. Talking afterwards to a newspaper, he explained that the Conservatives had worked a game on him. The "whips" told him that everything was all right and so he called the vote on the measure. The whips were not as sharp as they should have been, however; and the result of the division was fatal.

The point that is interesting about this is Mr. Connee's admission that the government whips were fighting for this intensely objectionable private bill. The Laurier Government thus stands forth as the confessed agent of predatory private corporations trying to grab public franchises. The St. Lawrence Power Transmission bill was another case of the same sort.

The Laurier Navy The Naval Service bill has at last been passed by the House of Commons. During the closing stages the Conservatives by persistent questioning brought out several significant admissions. The sort of navy which the Laurier Government proposes to create is revealed by the answers given by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to a set of questions put by Mr. Borden. The whole dialogue may be produced in full. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been saying that if war were to break out, Canadian ships of war must not fight the enemies of the empire unless an order-in-council has been passed. The debate continued as follows:

Mr. R. L. Borden--Suppose a Canadian ship meets a ship of similar armament and power belonging to an enemy, meet her on the high seas, what is she to do? I do not say if she is attacked, but will she attack, will she fight? Sir Wilfrid Laurier--I do not know that she would fight either. She should not fight until the government by which she is commissioned has determined whether she should go into the war. That is the position we take, my honorable friend takes a different position. He says that without any question, under all circumstances, we are bound to send our ships into the war. We take a different position, and we say, let the country judge between us.

Mr. R. L. Borden--Would our ports and harbours be neutral like our fleet until an order in council had been passed? Sir Wilfrid Laurier--I do not understand what my honorable friend means by asking if they should be neutral.

Mr. R. L. Borden--I understand the Prime Minister to say that our ships should not fight until they were ordered to do so, and, therefore, they would in effect be neutral until the Governor in Council had made an order that they should participate in the war. Have I misstated my honorable friend's position? Sir Wilfrid Laurier--No.

Mr. R. L. Borden--Then, inasmuch as our ships, under the conditions mentioned, will be practically neutral, I would like to know whether our ports and harbours will also be neutral in the same way?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier--I do not understand what my honorable friend means by asking if they would be neutral. If he means after an enemy has come into our harbour, then it will be time to resist them with our fleet.

Mr. R. L. Borden--But if our ships do not attack the enemy when they meet the enemy on the high seas, on the same principle, may not the enemy's fleet come into our harbour without our resistance or attack, without any fear of aggression, provided it is feasible for the country owning these harbours to maintain neutrality on the high seas?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier--That would be a question to determine any time that a warship entered a Canadian port. Mr. R. L. Borden--The position of the Prime Minister is that ships flying the British flag should meet any enemy on the high seas and not attack them. That is a new position for the British Navy.

Thus the Laurier Government intends to create a navy which shall can look on inactive and idle while British ships are attacked under their guns.

Chief Factor Dead Montreal, May 2--The death took place at Montreal, yesterday after a long illness, of Peter McKenzie, known throughout the Dominion as the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company. He was 73 years of age at the time of his death and is survived by his widow.

COMMEND GOVERNOR

Parliament Adopts An Address to Earl Grey Showing Appreciation of His Work in Canada--Laurier and Borden Move Address.

Ottawa, May 3--At the morning sitting of the Commons, the House unanimously adopted an address to their Excellencies Earl and Lady Grey, expressing the high appreciation of the people of Canada of the splendid services of His Excellency to the Dominion and in the cause of the Empire during his term of office in Canada, which term was now unfortunately drawing to a close.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in moving the address said that the system of appointing the leading men of Great Britain as Governors-General of Canada had worked both harmoniously and satisfactorily and he thought the paragraphs which appeared from time to time in the press suggesting that the time had arrived when a Canadian should be named as Governor-General represented a highly laudable but at the same time a misguided ambition.

Sir Wilfrid's Eulogy He paid a high tribute to Earl Grey, both in regard to his public services in Canada and in respect to his active interests in all things relating to the betterment of geological conditions in the Dominion.

A portion of Sir Wilfrid's speech was as follows: "He (Earl Grey) was not satisfied, as every one knows, to give to the discharge of his official duties the most careful and close attention, but he associated himself with the national life of Canada and in the various branches of his public life he endeavored to advance and to elevate the nation of Canada in everything, in all human speculations which go to make up the highest expressions of civilization."

"It is nothing but justice to say that under his wise and generous guidance arts, letters and science have received an indulgent impetus. In the matter of science especially, he has shown the most careful attention and was diligent and active in that part of science which is connected with public health, and it is due to his efforts and those of those associated with him that a disease has been checked which ravaged every year a large tribute, a disease that is known as tuberculosis. But in a certain way characteristic of His Excellency amongst us, was the particular attention he gave to the study of our history."

This, Sir Wilfrid went on to say, led to the inauguration of a movement for the preservation of our historic buildings. Sir Wilfrid then paid a graceful tribute to Lady Grey and Ladies Evelyn and Sybil Grey. They would be remembered, he said, by the poor and lowly to whose wants they had so often contributed and would long be honored for their efforts to promote the welfare of every Canadian.

Borden Seconds the Address Mr. R. L. Borden said that he took great pleasure in seconding the address, but that there was not much that could be added to the fitting and eloquent words of the Prime Minister in praise of His Excellency, Lady Grey and their charming daughters. To say that Canada has been fortunate in the selection of its Governors-General, particularly in recent years, was so true that it need not be emphasized. Both Earl Grey and Lord Minto had witnessed a wonderful development of the British Empire, especially in the direction of closer co-operation between the various parts. His Excellency's efforts in the direction of furthering this movement was along broad and generous lines and the affection he had won would be more enduring than any monument which could be designed. He possessed the true Imperial vision and he recognized in him as true a Canadian as is to be found in this great Dominion.

We would suggest to His Excellency that he might convey to His Majesty the message that the free people of Canada are fully aware that there are great problems which must be faced in order to bring about the co-operation of the Empire and that in this connection the people of the Dominion are ready and willing to bear their share of the burden.

The address was then adopted.

Cushing Will Lead Calgary, Alta., May 2--Hon. W. H. Cushing agreed at a meeting of insurgents held at Red Deer, to act as leader. The object of the meeting was to raise funds to pay counsel R. B. Bennett and others at the Alberta Great Waterways Railway investigation. Some of the original insurgents will, again support the government but the balance along with Mr. Bennett will continue to oppose the government when the legislature meets.

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PUGSLEY UNPOPULAR

Liberals Are Tired of Defending His Notorious Deals--Unanimous Resolution Passed.

Ottawa, May 2--There are healthy signs of an active revolt against Hon. Wm. Pugsley and his methods among the rank and file of the government supporters, and the sentiment is frankly expressed about the lobbies that the present minister of public works is somewhat of a mill stone about the neck of the party.

It is pointed out that every session the government supporters are called to support by their votes transactions such as the Hayes dredging contract, the New Brunswick Central railway and the sawdust wharf, but the latest mess into which Mr. Pugsley has got the administration is yet more pronounced. For some time past the public accounts committee has been delving into the rental of the Woods and Canadian buildings from the Imperial Realty and the minister has been on the spot actively engaged in burking the enquiry. Today in the committee even the Liberal majority there refused to stand any longer the Pugsley method, and the following resolution moved by Major Sam Sharpe was unanimously adopted by Liberals and Conservatives alike:

"Whereas the expenses of the government during the last year for lighting the Woods and Canadian buildings amounted to \$9,265.91, paid to the Imperial Realty Company, which company is not an electric light company, and whereas the city of Ottawa has a standard schedule of prices whereby the lighting would cost only \$5,040 or less, thereby effecting an annual saving to the country of \$4,225.91 or more, Therefore this committee desires to urge upon the minister of public works and the government the desirability of cancelling the present arrangement and recovering the excess improperly paid to the Imperial Realty company and giving the city of Ottawa or some other company the contract at the lower rates and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the minister of public works."

This unanimous resolution coming on the top of Mr. Pugsley's animated defence of Mr. Linton, the manager of the Imperial Realty company, on Friday when he refused to produce the contract showing at what price the company received the light is regarded as nothing short of a blow in the face to the Liberal majority and endorsed as it is by the Liberal majority of the committee, some action will have to be taken by him to cancel the contract or the ranks of the insurgents against Pugsley methods will be largely added to.

Premier Murray to Lose Leg Halifax, N.S., May 2--Premier Murray's condition continues to improve, but the decision of the surgeons is that the amputation of the leg is probably necessary. The operation will probably be performed within a few days. Fifty-seven unmarried persons committed suicide to 43 married.

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TROUBLE IN CABINET Fisher and Cartwright; Aylesworth and the Globe, at War Ottawa, April 30--The reported determination of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to shelve Sir Richard Cartwright by appointing Hon. Sydney Fisher to the leadership of the senate has precipitated a lively fight in governmental circles. The veteran minister of trade and commerce has signified his determination to continue his active participation in parliamentary affairs and has even intimated to close friends that if there is any attempt to dispose him from the cabinet, he will "turn" on those ready to eject him, when there would be some interesting lauding of political linen. Report has it that his voice has frequently been raised in cabinet council against the ever-growing expenditures.

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His mail has since been flooded with letters from rich men who endeavored to prove to him that he was wrong. "What I said," declares Mr. Simmons, "was that no man starting on the savings of his salary and going into buying an dwelling of merchandise at a profit could make a million dollars in his lifetime and do it honestly at that business alone. Such a merchant might possibly show a profit of \$100,000, but when he gets to the \$1,000,000 mark you begin to suspect him. He has not been straight. "I have been in my line all my life, and I know what I am talking about." Rats are eaten by the natives of Northern Australia.