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SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 11, 1911.

A WELL MERITED HONOR.

The complimentary banquet tendered Hon. J. D. Hazen, Premier of New Brunswick, is a fitting tribute to a man who has given as much, if not more, of his time to the service of his country than any other man in public life in this Province. Premier Hazen is still a young man, but he has been prominently before the public for more than a quarter of a century. In July, 1885, two Provincial by-elections were held, one in Kings and the other in York. Hon. William Pugsley was a candidate in Kings County and Premier Hazen, then 25 years old, was one of the contestants in York. He has been mayor of Fredericton, sat in the House of Commons for St. John, and now represents Sunbury, the county of his birth, in the Legislature of the Province. In all the years he has held representative position, no scandal has ever attached to his name. He has been a clean politician and as such is held in the highest esteem, both by opponents and his colleagues and supporters.

When Mr. Hazen entered the House of Assembly, the cause of the Opposition seemed utterly hopeless. The late Hon. A. G. Blair handed over to his successor a strong and united party, but with each change in the premiership the party weakened, and it took some years of diligent fighting to bring about a change in sentiment throughout the Province. Mr. Hazen, however, was not discouraged, and the signs of the times showed an unrest in the public mind regarding the methods, or more properly speaking the madness, of the old Government. There had been gross mismanagement of the financial affairs of the Province for years, but a skillful manipulation of the accounts long prevented the public from getting at the actual financial standing of the Province.

When the awakening did come in 1908, and the people became fully aware of the manner in which they had been deceived and their interests exploited for private gain, only four constituencies in the whole Province sustained the old Government and in one of these Hon. C. W. Robinson, the new premier, and F. J. Sweeney, Surveyor General, were candidates. Another county elected independents who became supporters of the Opposition. Eleven constituencies out of sixteen elected Hazen representatives.

Such a notable victory gave Mr. Hazen an opportunity to carry out the reforms he had advocated when in opposition. In doing this he had the loyal support of the members of the House elected on his ticket. There has been an undoubted change for the better in the administration of the affairs of the Government since Mr. Hazen has been in charge, and in no department has there been more marked than in the collection and expenditure of the revenues of the Province. There has been an attempt on the part of some members of the House to charge extravagance against the Hazen Government. Nothing could be more absurd or further from the truth. The Hazen Government has certainly spent more money than their predecessors, but it must be borne in mind that under the old regime all of the expenditures on current account never appeared as such, but by a system of chicanery were added to the permanent debt. The total amount of these expenditures in the last five years of the old Government was upwards of \$750,000 if not in excess of that sum.

The Hazen Administration has not pursued this method. It was neither honest nor was it necessary, although spending more for education, agriculture and public works, the increase in the revenue due to an honest and more systematic method of collection provided for all the increase. Had the old Government pursued the same course in collecting the revenue, not a single dollar of this \$750,000 need have been added to the debt. Through political favoritism, a few individuals got the benefit and the people of the Province have to pay the scorching which for interest and sinking fund amounts to \$37,500 a year.

The Opposition are constantly asserting that the Hazen Government have received the benefit of the increased Dominion subsidy. Had the affairs of the Province been honestly conducted, this would be true, but the greater part of that increase is necessary to pay the interest on the public debt added in the last ten years of the administration of the Old Government. That the Hazen Government has been able to spend more on the important public services of the Province is due to their own efforts rather than to the exertions of their predecessors.

Mr. Hazen has given the people of the Province honest clean government for the past three years—something they did not have in the preceding ten years. For this alone he is entitled to the good-will of all who are interested in the present and in the future of the country. His has also been a progressive administration. Today the Province of New Brunswick is better known abroad than ever before. Greater effort is being made to develop its natural resources than at any period in Provincial history. While in England, attending the Coronation of the King Mr. Hazen had frequent opportunities to tell the people of the Homeland something about the Province he represented and in consequence of his efforts interest in New Brunswick has been greatly stimulated. The Premier's trip abroad will not be without results, a fact that is plain from his address at the banquet last night.

Mr. Hazen expressed his personal gratification at the large attendance at the banquet to do him honor, but he did not claim all the honor to himself; he ascribed much of what he had been able to achieve in so short a time to his colleagues and supporters. The occasion was not only a pleasant and happy re-union, but will be remembered as one of the most important of its kind ever held in the city. Mr. Hazen has earned the honor by honest effort on behalf of good government, and is deserving of all that has been said in his praise.

A PARTIZAN FOR RETURNING OFFICER.

For the first time in the history of St. John the High Sheriff of the City and County of St. John has not been appointed returning officer for the Dominion election to be held September 21. Since the formation of the Province it has been the custom to appoint the High Sheriff of each county as returning officer at all

elections, and what was the custom before Confederation has been generally followed since. In the City and County of St. John there has never been an election which was not presided over by the Sheriff. Why was the change made this time? Why has Mr. A. O. Skinner, a bitter partizan and himself a twice defeated candidate, been selected as returning officer by the Minister of Public Works? These are questions which the public naturally ask. They are questions that may very properly be asked, and deserve an answer.

It has never been charged that as returning officer the Sheriff of the City and County has ever acted unfairly in any election held since Confederation. Partisanship has been studiously avoided by all who have held this honored and important office. No matter which party appointed the Sheriff all parties trusted him, and it is only right and proper to say that, as returning officer, no Sheriff of this constituency has ever violated his oath or given cause for complaint. It is because the Minister of Public Works and his colleagues hope to profit by having a partizan of their own—a man who has profited politically through the good offices of both and is therefore under obligations, that he has been chosen rather than the man holding the office of Sheriff and bound in honor and precedent to favor neither party?

Mr. S. S. DeForest, the High Sheriff, is well known in the city of his birth by all classes and conditions of citizens. He is regarded as a man of honor and probity, who could not be coaxed, cajoled or threatened into doing other than he considered right and in accordance with the law of the land. Both parties could rely on getting fair treatment at his hands. He is a public official and bound to hold the balances even.

The selection of a partizan to the position of returning officer will be resented by the people of this constituency because it is a departure from all former precedents. It will arouse suspicion that the rights of the minority are to be ignored and set aside in the interests of the majority. When the Provincial by-election was held in St. John County two years ago, the late High Sheriff Ritchie, although not an appointee of the present Administration, was selected as returning officer by the Hazen Government, and no complaint was made of his conduct during the election, although the candidate of the Government was defeated.

There is no doubt that a partizan returning officer, if he so desires, can do much to assist his party in an election. He has the appointment of the polling clerks and their assistants; and himself, a partizan, what more likely than that every polling clerk, assistant and constable will be as partizan as he? The choice of Mr. Skinner, who has no particular qualifications for the position of returning officer, which are not possessed by the High Sheriff, will be regarded as nothing short of an attempt to secure all the advantages of a partizan election board, to win by any means, fair or foul.

The Minister of Public Works can hardly be congratulated on his first move in the campaign. It is establishing a bad precedent, for which he must take the full responsibility. He will possibly try to seek cover by explaining that the office of High Sheriff was vacant for a few days following the death of High Sheriff Ritchie, but this will avail nothing, as the appointment of a successor was made with promptitude by the Local Government. Such an excuse amounts to nothing and is no answer to the appointment of a partizan instead of following the usual precedent and giving the office to the High Sheriff in whom the whole of the people would have placed the utmost confidence. It is not in the order of things that the Conservative party should accept without protest and without suspicion such an appointment as that of Mr. Skinner, who has held nearly, if not every, office in the Liberal executive at one time or another in the past quarter of a century.

MR. JAMES LOWELL SELECTED.

There was consternation in the Liberal ranks all day yesterday because it was asserted that Mr. Edward Lantaulu insisted that his name should be placed before the convention last night for nomination as one of the Liberal candidates in the approaching election. The nomination had been promised to Mr. James Lowell, M. P. by the party bosses, and the presence of Mr. Lantaulu in the field was extremely awkward.

The convention was called for 7:30 o'clock, but before that hour it was whispered about the street corners that Mr. Lantaulu had been satisfied and would withdraw. Whether he is to dispense the patronage instead of Mr. Lowell, or is to get a seat in the Senate or both, in the event of the success of his party, is not made public, but the fact remains that Mr. Lowell has secured the nomination and will be the Liberal candidate for the City and County of St. John, Hon. Mr. Pugsley accepting the nomination for the City.

What ever qualifications the Liberals may have discovered in Mr. Lowell to entitle him to a nomination for one of the seats in this constituency, he certainly was not selected because of his abilities as a public speaker. He has been a member of the Legislature now for several years and beyond an interest in the Suspension Bridge has not taken a prominent place in that body before or since the change of government. His policies are of the parish variety and scarcely suitable to a constituency like St. John. He is in no sense a representative man and he thinks has displayed a greater interest in getting good things for himself and securing the appointment of political friends to office than in anything else. Such qualifications may appeal to the Liberal party, but they are not likely to be taken seriously by the people of St. John.

Current Comment

(Winnipeg Telegram.)

It is not right that the harvesters should be disfranchised, but that is an unavoidable consequence of holding the election on September 21st, and is merely a negative injury, compared with the positive opening for corrupt practices to which it affords an opportunity. Anyone who thinks that the followers of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's white plumes in the path of honor will not stoop to such practices need only remember the famous cruise of the Minnie M.

(Rochester Post-Express.)

It is clear that Canada is a very prosperous, a very rapidly growing country. Her purchases from the United States average \$32 for each man, woman and child. It is perfectly clear that our exports to Canada, which have actually doubled in ten years, will continue to increase as that marvellous country continues to increase in wealth. Now, then, can there be any doubt about the wisdom of closer trade relations?

(Ottawa Journal.)

Premier Bots: "For South Africa, or any other Dominion, to be neutral while the Mother Country is at war is an impossibility." That's both loyalty and common sense.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

The name of the new Governor of Manitoba is Douglas-Campbell Cameron. We suspect that he is Scotch.

(Chattanooga Times.)

If Canada will dicker with us, Tennessee has a number of politicians which she would be willing to exchange for a few head of first-class cattle.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Under the above caption the Calgary Herald publishes a letter from an American citizen now living in Alberta who takes a deep interest in the subject of reciprocity. It is somewhat out of the ordinary run of contributions on this much-discussed question, and is well worth reading. This American writes as follows: "American reciprocity involves a great deal more than merely more friendly trade relations with the great republic just across the international line. It means a business partnership with a nation ten-fold stronger than Canada, in which the balance of power will be irrevocably handed over to the dominant partner. This would involve dangers enough to a nation with all its future before it, but the partnership strikes deeper than that even. A business partnership with America means for Canada, the wide open door to the 'American spirit'."

Wide Apart.

The line which separates the American republic from Canada is for the most part neither a range of great mountains nor a great river; but no Canadian might imagine the river ever separated two peoples of

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a common tongue more widely apart in their traditions, principles and ideals, than are the two great English speaking nations of the American continent. And the hope of Canada today is something to which America has not yet come and which Canada is in danger. Lest We Forget! It is the foundation sound, substantial and enduring morality which lies beneath every institution in this great Dominion.

"Centuries of the deepest experience with the fundamentals of human conduct have brought forth the British Empire of today. The onward march from the Magna Charta to the Canadian Federation has been but the gradual adoption of those principles that have proven their right to supremacy by the law of the survival of the fittest, and the traditions of the Empire, which underlie the Canadian nation are but the net result of ten centuries of nation building.

Canada's Position.

"It may be said that Canada rests upon a three-fold foundation; the supremacy of the law, the sanctity of the Sabbath, and sound business methods. And at the heart of these is the shrine which lies at the heart of the British Empire, the shrine of the right of the majority to rule. It is made glorious by the many men of every generation and made divinely beautiful by the love and consecration of the youth who have long been on the frontier of endeavor an insignia of purity and ideals which no true Canadian would sacrifice for all the wealth of Arafat."

"Who would exchange the universal respect for law which abides throughout the British Empire today for corruption control at the national capital and liquor control in the great cities? Who would exchange the beautiful spirit of Sabbath observance, which means more to the boys and young men of Canada today than any but its mothers know, for the Parisian Sunday of Chicago and New York? Who would exchange the substantial business methods of Canada, which are so well expressed in its great banking institutions, its Dominion land laws, and the whole commercial organization of the Dominion, for 'show-string' methods of speculation and the fantastic dreams of J. Rufus Wallingford? And, finally, who would exchange the sacred atmosphere of the Canadian home for the spirit which so lightly regards the marriage vow and makes the divorce court its final confessional.

Easy to Tear Down.

"It is much easier to tear down than to build up. And a single decade of 'commercializing' Canada would destroy what it has taken a thousand years to make. The American nation is the product of but a single century. It is the most heterogeneous aggregation of humanity on earth. The democracy of Thomas Jefferson has become the individualism of today, which finds its expression all the way up or down from the wheelbarrow to the trust, in material, the principles and methods are the same all along the line. Every thoughtful American knows that the United States is 'sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind.' And Canada owes an obligation to its sister nation across the line, and it is an obligation which the American nation needs a thousand times more than it needs added commercial opportunities. It is the obligation of good example. As for Canada, her duty is to her birthright for the hope of gold. Canada has greater needs than an American market for her products. And Canada had better pay the price of the safety of her sons and daughters."

IN THE COURTS

Supreme Court Chambers. In the supreme court chambers yesterday morning before Mr. Justice McKeown, M. N. Conour, K. C. of St. Andrews, on behalf of Floyd Brown and Chapman Cheney, two prisoners belonging to Grand Manan, who are now confined in the Charlotte county jail awaiting trial on a charge of breaking and entering a store and stealing a sum of money, made application for an order to admit the prisoners to bail until time of trial on Oct. 3rd. The order was granted and the amount of bail fixed at \$500, \$400 for each prisoner and \$200 for two sureties in each case.

SHIRT-SLEEVED LEGISLATION IN THE BRITISH COMMONS.

London, Aug. 9.—"Shirt-sleeved" legislation made an appearance for the first time in the House of Commons this afternoon. The heat was intense, 95 degrees Fahrenheit being recorded in the shade and 131 in the sun.

During the sitting of the Grand Committee a member suddenly threw off his coat and declared that he would not put it on again even if objection was made. His colleagues were momentarily appalled at the innovation, but soon all were legislating in their shirt sleeves. In the law courts, wigs and gowns were generally discarded.

SIR JAMES WHITNEY.

"I feel a little hurt that it should be said of me that I needed, in the greatest crisis which a British people has faced, pressure to induce me to come out on the right side. I wonder if they would say that pressure was brought to bear upon Sir Edmund Walker, Mr. Z. A. Lash, Mr. Jack Eaton and other prominent Liberals, who have condemned the government's policy."

"They are right when they say we will throw the weight of our organization in favor of the Dominion Conservative party and no government ever had such an organization as ours. Our organization—the only organization we possess—consists of the people. When the time comes the people of Ontario organize themselves and they tell the remnants in this province who do not want good government that they shall have good government."

And told that I should not forget that there are Liberals who support our government. I know that and there are going to be more. They forget that the people who support us are also going to oppose reciprocity. Thank God the people of Canada, not the people of one party, are going to oppose that agreement and to spurn the mess of pottage they are offered."—Sir James Whitney at Conservative rally in Exhibition Park.



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ROYALISTS TRYING FOR HOME IN BRAZIL.

Lisbon, Aug. 9.—Secret documents taken from a Jesuit priest on board the steamer Araguaya, bound for Brazil, are said to indicate that the Royalists are seeking a loan of \$5,000,000 in Brazil with which to purchase a warship, artillery and rifles. The documents also indicate that the army officers are adhering to the monarchist movement.

CHILE PAYS UP.

London, Aug. 9.—Augustine Edward, the Chilean minister to Great Britain, paid over to Ambassador 131,073 pounds (approximately \$300,000), the indemnity awarded the United States in the Alsop claim against Chile under the arbitral judgement of King George.

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