

Read and Reflect

CARD

To the Electors of Montreal Centre:

In appearing before you as a candidate for the honor of representing Montreal Centre in the Legislature of the Province, it becomes necessary for me to state my position and to give the reason why I, a comparative stranger to most of you, look for your suffrages. The position I now occupy is not of my own seeking. As most of you are probably aware, the Trades and Labor Council, a body representative of a very large portion of the workmen of Montreal, has placed me in the field, and having done so it does not feel that, in a constituency so largely made up of the working class element, any apology is necessary for endeavoring to secure a representative from its own ranks in the Provincial Parliament. No one can better appreciate the wants of workmen than a workman himself, and, while I would earnestly endeavor to secure equal justice and fair legislation for my fellow-workmen it would not be at the expense of any other class.

My attitude towards either of the two political parties would be one of complete independence, giving a hearty support to any administration which shall endeavor to carry out the wishes of the people and honestly administer the finances of the Province.

If elected I will, while giving a cordial support to all good measures by whomsoever introduced, devote my best energies to secure legislation on the following lines:

Free Education.

This is the greatest gift that could be given to any community, and I would endeavor to secure it for the Province of Quebec. In my opinion the moral effect of an absolutely free educational system upon the people would greatly over-balance any increased expenditure. It is much cheaper to multiply our school houses than to enlarge our prisons.

Compulsory Voting.

I believe in the principle of compulsory voting, feeling that it falls upon the State to see that her citizens do their duty as such, and believing also that it would minimize bribery, corruption and telegraphing.

Seizure of Wages.

I believe that through the action of this law thousands of our citizens have been driven from their homes, and that untold misery has come upon many poor families through their bread-winner losing his situation by a seizure being placed upon his wages. I would substitute for this act a simple legal process of collecting small debts at a minimum of cost.

Payment of Jurors.

I believe that when a man is called upon to serve as a juror he should be paid equivalent to his loss of time, and would therefore support any measure increasing the remuneration now paid to jurors.

Public Offices.

I believe that all positions under government should be open to public competition, and that political influence should have no effect in civil appointments. Greater economy and increased efficiency in the service would result.

The Contract System.

I am in favor of abolishing the contract system on all public works, and substituting therefor day's labor under the supervision of qualified government officers. The contract system is responsible for the greater part of the hoodling of the present day, and I believe that under day labor better wages could be paid to workmen on all public works and yet prove less costly to the taxpayers. "Scamped" work and "extras" are necessary to enable a contractor to pay his political subscription; under day labor there would be no inducement to "scamp" and no sham necessity for extras.

The Factory Act.

I am in favor of a more stringent inspection of factories and the appointment of female inspectors for factories where female help is largely employed.

Gear and Tackle Inspection.

The numerous casualties on our wharves during the shipping season, too often the re-

sult of defective tackle, calls loudly for a thorough inspection of the same. I would advocate the appointment of a thoroughly qualified inspector in this department of labor.

Employers' Liability.

I believe that the liability of employers for accidents through defective or unguarded machinery, or through the fault of incompetent persons in their employ, should be more strictly defined, and that it should not be possible for wealthy corporations to avoid responsibility and defeat justice by technicalities enabling them to drag the claimant through costly and harassing law proceedings. I would take the earliest opportunity of introducing amendments to the provincial act in this direction.

Mechanics' Lien Act.

I am in favor of every workman and every mechanic having a lien, to the extent of his wages, upon what his labor produces.

The Franchise.

I am in favor of extending the franchise to the sons of workmen, living with their parents, on a similar basis as now enjoyed by the sons of farmers and professional men.

Masters' and Servants' Act.

I am in favor of radical changes in the law relating to master and servant, and would introduce amendments to bring its provisions more in accordance with the times.

Temperance.

Believing as I do that the drink traffic is directly responsible for a great amount of the misery and destitution which prevail at all times in this province, I am in favor of placing the fullest restrictions upon the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor, and would support any measure calculated to secure that end.

GENTLEMEN,

Above I have outlined my programme, and it is for you to say, by your votes, whether or not it meets with your approval. If you favor me with your confidence and return me as your representative, I shall endeavor to merit that confidence by a diligent discharge of the duties devolving on the representative of such an important constituency as that of Montreal Centre, and while carefully looking after your interests in particular, will work and vote for any measure calculated to advance the material and moral welfare of the people of this Province in general.

Your obedient servant,

L. Z. BOUDREAU.

The First Locomotive Run in America.

It was in 1829, the same year in which Stephenson, with his Rocket, demonstrated the practicability of rapid steam traction on railways. The engine was named the Stourbridge Lion. It was made in England and imported by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co., and designed to draw coal from their mines in Carbondale to the head of their canal in Honesdale, Pa. On its arrival, it was placed on the railway and run from Honesdale to Seelyville, a little over a mile. It was found to be too tall to go under a highway bridge over the track at that place, and was reversed and run back to Honesdale. All parts of the railway about the surface of the ground were built on trestles, and the heavy engine raked them so much as to endanger safety. For these reasons the locomotive was set off by the side of the track, and a board shed built over it. The railway was planked, and horses employed to draw the cars. The engine stood there safe several years.

The writer was personally acquainted with these facts. Two men who rode on that trip are alive at this time.

In 1840 and 1821, while I was a student in the Honesdale Academy, I found the boards on one side of the shed torn off and the engine exposed to view. I spent many hours in trying to study out its mechanism and movement. No published description of a steam engine was then within my reach. The Stourbridge Lion had four wheels, three of three and a half in diameter, and the boiler rested directly on the axles. The cylinders were vertical, one on each side of the boiler near the hind wheels. There were two heavy iron walking beams a few feet above the boiler, and to one end of each a piston rod was attached by Watt's parallelogram. The other ends of the beams were joined by swinging rods to cranks at right angles to each other on the forward wheels. There was no whistle or bell, I think. The engineer stood on a small platform behind the boiler.

Soon after 1841, the engine began to be carried off piece by piece, mostly by blacksmiths and machinists; and I am told that

only one small piece of the iron is now in existence in its primitive form. If the engine had been kept intact, it would be worth almost its weight in silver for exhibition in Chicago in 1893.—M. H., Science.

A New Use For Monkeys.

The Siamese people don't reflect how amusing a monkey is. They find out what a monkey can do, and make him useful by making him do it. There are plenty of monkeys in Siam. They are of all sizes, large and small, and the large apes of Siam, we have heard, are used by the Siamese merchants as cashiers in their counting rooms.

In that far off, dried up, little Oriental country, quite near China, you know, there are large quantities of counterfeit coin in circulation; and the counterfeiters of Siam must be most proficient, for we hear that it is the hardest thing in the world to detect the bad from the good money. The merchants are often deceived, and frequently swindled. The smartest men they could employ were deceived, too; for the bad money was such a wonderful imitation that the closest scrutiny often failed to find a difference between a good and a bad piece.

In this dilemma, some Siamese merchants called to their help some one who was always thought not so smart as a man—a monkey. And these "large apes of Siam" proved such a success at their new vocation that the custom of employing them for the purpose of detecting bad money has become universal. The ape cashier of Siam holds his situation without a rival.

He has a peculiar method of testing coin. Every piece is handed to him, and he picks up each bit of money, one at a time, and meditatively puts it into his mouth, tasting it with grave deliberation. If the coin is good he declares the fact plainly. He takes it from his mouth and carefully places it in its proper receptacle beside him. He has pronounced judgment, and every one is satisfied that the judgment is correct. But, if the coin is bad, the cashier makes known his verdict in an equally unmistakable manner. He throws it violently from his mouth to the floor, shaking his head with as much disgust as the merchant himself might feel at being imposed upon. With loud chattering and angry gestures he makes known his displeasure at being presented with a bad piece of money. The merchant himself could not express it better.

Now, how does a monkey know what a man cannot tell? Ah! that is the secret. He never reveals it. Perhaps he is afraid if he should make known all the mysteries of his profession his occupation might be gone, and people would once more prefer men for cashiers in place of the extraordinary apes employed by the merchants of Siam.

A PATHETIC PROSE POEM.

What is a prose poem? Is it an exciting story born of the imagination, stirring the pulses like a drink of wine, and teaching by its moral; or is it a story real and true, which by its pathos and its fascination seems like some wonderful creation of the brain? I know what a verse poem is—for instance, this:

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honor the charge they made!
Honor the Light Brigade!
Noble six hundred!

There is a stirring sound in that, like the bugle stimulus itself, and I know that it is poetry; but what is this? A story told by one of the "noble six hundred." Is this a poem too? First, let me preface it with a prose introduction, a common-place police report which I find in a London paper: James Kennedy, a tall, white-haired old man of seventy-four, had some drink given to him on Sunday because he was one of the "six hundred" who charged the Russians at Balacava. He became so noisy as the drink took effect on him that he was taken into custody. When arraigned before the magistrate on Monday morning to answer for his crime, he made an excuse which appears to me like poetry; and I have thrown it into blank verse, preserving the words of the prisoner as he spoke them:

I am getting very old, sir; nearly seventy-four. I was in the charge at Balacava. And if I said what I should not have said, I am sorry. Sir, I am destitute; and for several nights I walked the streets in the cold. I had nothing to eat, and when somebody gave me drink it came over me. I was in the Seventeenth Lancers in the charge at Balacava. I will go into the workhouse if you will not punish me. I am getting too old for this world altogether.

I think the speech of that old soldier is a prose poem which might fittingly go along with Tennyson's own "Charge." The London paper from which I copy heads its account ironically thus: "When can glory fade?" To that I answer: It has faded. It is a sad story.—M. M. Trumbull in open Court,

mand and receive part of the wages of labor under the stand-and-deliver form of rent because the accumulations of rent are far in excess of the needs for goods or luxuries of the idle few who claim that tribute; and they are thus enabled to control exchange of the products of industry, demanding additional tributes under the forms of profits and interest. The poor are poor because they are deprived of the products of their industry; because, by work, the profits of which they are not permitted to retain, they make beasts of themselves and theirs, and sybarites of those who hold the land."

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