

The Standard



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MR. CARVELL ON HIMSELF AND THE RAILWAY.

On the last day of February Mr. Hazen replied to a rambling and censorious letter from Mr. Carvell on the matter of the Valley Railway. The attorney general courteously pointed out that the provincial government was more anxious to have the railway constructed than to consume time in dilatory negotiations with persons having no authority or responsibility in the matter, and observed that he could see no profit in a controversy with Mr. Carvell over the reasons why Sir Wilfrid delayed for nearly a year his answer to the admittedly definite proposition made to him.

Mr. Carvell now answers this with another letter no long, so dull, so discourteous and so unconstructive, as to justify Mr. Hazen's conclusion that such a correspondence is without profit to any human soul.

Mr. Carvell devotes two or three pages of type to a violent contradiction of the alleged "puerile and false" statement that Sir Wilfrid pronounced Mr. Hazen's offer a definite one, which statement is found verbatim in the St. John Telegraph's report wired from Ottawa the same day. He accuses Mr. Hazen of making "ridiculous statements," placing himself in a "ridiculous position," of attempts "to shirk responsibility," and to "dodge," of "flimsy pretence," of a "sole purpose of delaying if not defeating the project," of bad faith, and of attempting "to hoodwink and deceive the people," with much more of the same kind.

All this may or may not be good politics, but it does not show that an intermediary between the Valley Railway Company and either government is necessary, while it easily proves that if one could be useful it would not be Mr. Carvell. Evidently the member for Carleton is not after the railway. He is after politics, and politics very personal to himself. His letter is the baldest and most transparent campaign literature. Better for Mr. Carvell to have no railway than to have one in which Mr. Carvell is not the manipulator, and which falls to make political gain for the member for Carleton. The redeeming feature of the letter as literature is its soaring egotism.

Thus Mr. Carvell in his first letter invented his own office as introducer of the delegation, which he did not introduce. In the letter before us he argues that Mr. Hazen's proposition was not sufficiently definite to make an answer from Sir Wilfrid possible when it was presented by a large non-partisan delegation from this province, yet it easily became sufficiently definite after Mr. Carvell, as his "first act," in November, had held a caucus of strictly and exclusively Liberal members from this province. Mr. Hazen's proposition after this treatment became so definite that Sir Wilfrid was able to answer it, though even then the reply had to be sent to Mr. Carvell, not to the company, or the chairman of the delegation or to the provincial government. Mr. Carvell would have us all notice that it was his act to "hold" the caucus, which seems to have been his personal property. Naturally Sir Wilfrid's answer was to the owner of the caucus.

Having explained at great length where he himself came in, Mr. Carvell has a little space to deal with a large number of railway schemes which he describes to Mr. Hazen between his accusations. He finds that all lead up to the Canadian Pacific Railway, except the one about which Mr. Carvell held his personal and exclusive caucus. After pleading with Mr. Hazen to try his best to be big enough to stand up in the same row with Mr. Carvell, the modest correspondent offers his only new contribution to the discussions and guarantees will bring the people of New Brunswick willingly add what is required in the investment. It is not suggested that Mr. Carvell's friends at Ottawa might give something beyond the least subsidy given to any branch railway in Canada. The cheerful proposition that the province should be ready to help out the railway company with more money, if more should be needed later on, suggests that Mr. Carvell had assistance from Mr. Pugsley in this part of the letter. This also may account for the suggestion that modification of the rigid minimum standard may possibly be obtained from Ottawa, of course through the instrumentality of Mr. Carvell.

Mr. Hazen may read this letter all through. If he does he will be convinced that the business of the government in connection with the railway has not much to do with Mr. Carvell. Man and letter are a kind of campaign proposition to be dealt with on political occasions. Mr. Carvell thinks the local opposition leaders utterly incapable of doing their part in accusing Mr. Fleming of falsehood, and Mr. Hazen of dodging, and had faith, and of trying to kill the Valley Railway. This does grave injustice to Mr. Copp and Mr. Tweeddale, who have on hand a stock of epithets strong and as stale as his own, and whose speeches fill even more columns than his letters. None of the three are doing much to build the Valley Railway, but the work can go on in spite of them.

MR. ROBINSON ON THE FINANCES.

Mr. Robinson is under large obligation to the provincial secretary and the auditor general. Not since the opposition leader started out in politics, and many years before, has a financial critic had a full and accurate statement of the public accounts before him. When Mr. Fleming was the critic he had to gain by laborious investigation in committee a part of the information that is now placed in plain tables before the legislature. The remainder of the information no one could get, except so far as it has been obtained, tragically and otherwise, since the late government disappeared.

Mr. Robinson possibly made the most of his opportunity. He insists that Mr. Fleming might have made a better loan than the government of Ontario, and that he did wrong to place the business in the hands of the Bank of Montreal as Mr. Fleming has done with federal loans, and as is done by the Whitney administration of Ontario, and by the ministry of Quebec. Most people will think that if there is any secret in these matters, the Dominion government would be as likely to have it as Mr. Robinson. If this is a wrong view there

is a large field for the leader of the opposition in finance. Mr. Fleming not only got as good prices as the large provinces for larger loans, but his percentage of brokerage, commissions, etc., was the same as theirs. Mr. Robinson says it is too high, and for all we know, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Matheson, of Ontario, with the other finance ministers may agree with him. But that does not reduce it.

For the rest Mr. Robinson repeats his statement that the Hazen government spends more money than its predecessor, and that it keeps on borrowing. Mr. Fleming has said the same thing. He admits and even boasts that the government is spending more for the development of agriculture, more out of the ordinary revenue for public bridges, more for education, more for the protection of the forests, than the late ministry. Mr. Fleming admits the increase of debt, and that it cannot be stopped while contracts run on that were made by the late government. But there is no question that the government is expending less on mere machinery of the government than the late ministry. It is manifest that what is spent appears in the accounts and that the days of concealment are over.

Mr. Robinson is worried because the provincial government which was returned to office by Liberals does not appoint any Liberals to office. He manages to forget the announcements of his own journals when such appointments are made. It will be noticed that the complaint comes not from those Liberals who supported Mr. Hazen, but from those who opposed him. If Mr. Robinson sought for Liberals who have been recognized as friends by the Hazen administration he might find them. Unfortunately his friend, Mr. Copp, has a habit of reading out of the party all Liberals who are friendly to the Hazen ministry, and that obscures Mr. Robinson's vision.

Mr. Robinson's peroration is good and has a familiar ring. It is patterned on one of Sir Charles Tupper's, but differs from it in the circumstance that the things affirmed by Mr. Robinson have not happened.

A FEEBLE TESTIMONIAL.

At the end of the Sawdust wharf inquiry, a testimonial was produced on behalf of the Ministry of Public Works, signed by thirty-two citizens of Richibucto. Some of these said that the wharf was worth \$5,000, some twice as much. It was a little surprising that a property which these men deemed so valuable should be sold for \$400 a good many years ago, and ever since that time been open for purchase by any of these men for about \$700 until it finally went for the latter sum, and that none of these citizens snatched the investment.

There are several hundred men within the area out of which these thirty-two testimonials were obtained. A large proportion of these are government supporters who would like to testify for Mr. Pugsley if they could. Strenuous efforts were made to secure their names to these documents. The testimonials were carried around for signatures to stores and shops. They were carried to the saloons, and taken to the lobby of the post office where people going for their mails were asked to sign. The parties interesting themselves in the circulation of this paper were Thomas O. Murray, who bought the wharf for \$700 and sold it to the government for \$5,000, and a man from Loggieville who is an employee at Richibucto of Messrs. A. and R. Loggie, dredging contractors with Mr. Pugsley's department. Of the signers, seven are in the pay of the Dominion government, three are employees of Messrs. A. and R. Loggie, one is a tenant of this firm, and five are employees of the Kent Northern Railway of which Mr. Murray, the middleman in the case, is the manager. The delicacy shown by the managers of this operation in presenting the testimonial to persons in these relations is perhaps a matter of taste. It may be further stated that one is a non-resident, and one a recent arrival at Richibucto, that fourteen of those who value real estate so highly own none themselves, and that the whole of them together are assessed for real estate about the value that was for them put upon a wharf that was for years in the market at \$700.

If this is the best the middlemen could do in the way of a testimonial in the whole town of Richibucto, the deal is damned at home.

A SOLEMN STATEMENT.

As the St. John Sun is about going out of business, and is not likely to express many more candid opinions either of the "buccaneers" or of the Intercolonial management, it is worth while to preserve as a souvenir one of its last independent testimonies:—

"It is not true," said the Sun, "that the I. C. R. is 'out of politics' or that 'business methods' are 'interfering with the spoils.' If the existence of and adherence to a 'patronage list' involves graft, there is graft now, as formerly. The only change that has been made is to limit the list to those who carry favor with 'the management as well as with the party.' Not only has a Conservative no more chance to do business with 'the I. C. R. today than he had in Mr. Blair's time, but 'the list of favored Liberals is reduced to those who 'stand in with the powers that be. There is as much 'spoils' as ever, though it has been centralized somewhat."

In courts of law a special sanctity attaches to the declaration of dying persons in certain circumstances. They have for some purposes the force of sworn evidence. In this light this announcement of the Sun is commended to public notice, with the statement made at the same time, and often before, that the Sun had lost government printing because of its free criticism and had been offered it back on condition that its criticism should cease.

THE LUMSDEN TRIBUNAL.

The course of the opposition members of the Lumsden committee is apparently based on these facts:—There are two parties on this committee, the majority bound to bring out all the facts in favor of the railway commission, and the minority anxious to bring out all the evidence in support of the charges. The commission has already on its side an able and high priced lawyer paid by the country and engaged to defend the commissioners. He will do all that he can to discredit the evidence produced in support of the charges, and will bring forward all the facts available in defence of the commission. That is to say he will do the work that the Liberal majority on the commission wish to have done. The opposition members do not object to this, but they demand the privilege of appointing counsel for the investigation to bring out the evidence in support of the charges. This privilege is refused them. The majority desire to appoint the prosecuting counsel also. It is true that they do not claim the right to make the appointment by themselves, but a choice by the whole committee is a choice by a majority of the committee. This means that the defence will select the lawyer for the defence and also the lawyer for the prosecution, and having a majority on the committee with a Liberal in the chair, will have things all that way. The opposition members do not propose to expend their time, and lose their tempers over a mock inquiry conducted under such unequal and exasperating conditions. They consider that the same results will be reached more quickly and delivered and amicably by a unanimous committee.

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A GARDEN CONFESSION

I know not why it is but ever more and more my mind turns from the grander things, The pomp of state, the joy and grief of kings, The trumpet's piercing blast, the cannon's roar, The bullet-riddled flags that flaunt before, To muse upon the softly fluttering wings Of butterflies and bees, the bird that sings, Or cricket lifting clear at Autumn's door.

Should shame be mine? Wars come, and slay, and pass, Where men have bled sun waves the whispering grass, As if wise Nature gently would proclaim The ways of beauty are the ways of peace, And glory never brings of pain surcease, That love is always better far than fame.
—Samuel Minturn Peck.

A Daily Short Story

HER FIRST MARKETING

By Stuart B. Stone.

After the Riviera, the Nile and the blue heaven-dome of Capri, they came back to earth and to their beautiful little nest of a home. And now they were to begin eating real meals and basking real cooks and trafficking with real loaves in the pretty home nest.

"I'm going out and do the very first marketing my own self," she said saucily. "He growled as a mere man will do. 'Letter not—you don't know things. Send Bridget.'"

"No," she declared. "I do know things, and I am going myself." She procured a basket from Bridget and her guided, bijou, de luxe purse full of small change from him, and she tripped forth. He crept uneasily behind, keeping well out of sight, for he feared the lighting of her plume.

The first place of call was, of course the Plaza meat market. "Vat iss, blees?" asked O. Hammerfest. "She tapped the greasy counter reflectively. 'I wish a meat,' she announced.

"Zin meat?" gasped O. Hammerfest. "A meat, please."

"Und vat kind of meat, blees?" "Oh, are there different kinds?" She smiled. "Why, certainly, of course—what am I thinking about?"

Mr. O. Hammerfest frowned suspiciously. "How much?" "She meditated; then in sudden inspiration. 'Oh, a half.'"

Mr. Hammerfest stolidly cut the great round steak in two, and wrapping a few yards of brown paper about it, he shoved the unwieldy purchase across the counter.

"Goodness!" she gasped. "I must ask you to deliver it, I had no idea it took so much for just two."

The sign of the Busy Bee across the way offered refuge and she hurried. "Pickles," she announced, with sudden inspiration, knowing that no plump, red-faced grocer could laugh at this.

"Yes, miss," the Busy Bee man responded, politely, and her heart bounded with honest pride. "How many did you say?"

She counted carefully. There were he and herself and Bridget. "Three," she decided.

The trio of green warty relishes was counted out, and she put down a dollar. "My," she gasped, on receiving 37 cents in change. "I had no idea provisions were so cheap!"

The looking up, she saw, was tempted and fell. "Ooh—lobsters!" she bubbled. "I must have some."

"Yes, miss—how many?" asked the Busy Bee man.

She studied, then thought of the pickles. "Why, three, of course."

The crustaceans were set in trays and delivered and she placed upon

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BIG MONEY AT FAIR FOR EXHIBITORS

Awards at Dominion Exhibition Increased from 50 to 125 per cent. --- Better Classification Arranged.

In the prize list for the Dominion Exhibition, which is now in the hands of the printers and will shortly be issued, the prize money in practically every class has been largely increased in some cases from 50 to 125 per cent. A better classification has also been arranged which it is believed will meet with universal approval from exhibitors.

More than twice the 1908 apportionment will be paid in prizes for standard-bred horses. In the heavy draught horse classes, such as Clydesdales, Shires and Percherons, the increase is slightly over 50 per cent. New Brunswick is particularly interested in this department. The cash to be awarded for the draught horses is in excess of that given at any exhibition in Eastern Canada.

The cattle prizes have been materially increased, especially to leading breeds in the province, such as Short-horns, Herefords, Ayrshires, Holsteins and Jerseys. All these classes are to be raised more than 100 per cent in money, which will be good news for the cattle owners. Dairy breeds of cattle will be awarded more money than at any previous show here by 125 per cent.

In the sheep and swine classes much greater incentive will be offered exhibitors by the addition of generous amounts to the usual prize amounts.

Poultry Prize List.
Poultry fanciers and breeders will be interested in the new system to be inaugurated relative to judging. This will consist of a prize list varying with the number of entries in each class. The effect will be that in those breeds of birds in which there will be a large number of entries—the standard of champion birds correspondingly raised—money prizes will be proportionately increased.

Dairy awards have also been revised upward after consultation with representatives of the provincial department and dairy superintendents. Not only are there additional classes in both butter and cheese making but the sections have been brought up to date to meet the present day output. The private or household dairy worker will have much better opportunity to win money this year as well as the professional creamery men. In the butter making classes there will be two classes—professional or creamery; amateurs or household maker.

In the horticultural section the prize list has undergone a lot of changes, made with a view to greatly improving the quality of exhibits. This has entailed the elimination of several classes or varieties of apples which are naturally not fit for competitive purposes so early in the autumn. The funds withheld from these exhibits have been put to good use in new classes.

Potatoes Reclassified.
Potatoes too will be judged in a new manner. Heretofore there has been competition in each individual variety but this year tubers are to be classified in six types—white round white long, rose round, rose long, red and black. Additional classes for the largest potatoes and best table potatoes have been made. To offset the decrease in the number of classes in this section of the agricultural show the prize list has been extended

to five places instead of three as formerly. The women's work and household located in the new building have been thoroughly gone over in the makeup of the new cash awards. In conference with a delegation from the local Council of Women new prizes were not only made larger, but the scope of work was widened materially.

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