

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1908

CANADA IN THE  
CONTROL OF HER OWN AFFAIRS

This the Keynote of Address by J. S. Ewart, Eminent Ottawa Jurist and Writer, Before Canadian Club Friday Evening—Four Lessons from Imperial Conferences—Says United Anglo-Japanese Treaty, if Japs Warred With United States Canada Could Not.

The independence of Canada in so far as it related to the control of her own affairs was the keynote of the address which J. S. Ewart, of Ottawa, delivered before the Canadian Club in Keith's assembly room Friday night. The speaker took the lesson of the conference as his subject and reviewed the history of the deliberations, touching on the points which had failed to find acceptance and also the results which had been attained. He forecast that the days of British management were drawing to a close and urged that the future as between the mother country and the colonies should tend towards co-operation rather than incorporation.

In replying to a vote of thanks Mr. Ewart laid stress on the advantages to be derived from the maintenance of the union for the maritime provinces and spoke of the part Canadian clubs could take with that end in view. W. E. Earle, the president, occupied the chair. The attendance was not as large as at some of the previous meetings. The points made by the speaker were received with frequent applause.

After the good things provided by the King's Daughters had been done full justice to the chairman briefly referred to the loss of the club had the interests of the club, moved by Ald. Baxter and seconded by Ald. Pickett, was carried.

The chairman then introduced Mr. Ewart, referring in passing to his position as a leading writer on law and the admitted value of his researches throughout the English-speaking world.

Mr. Ewart was received with musical honors and in his introductory remarks he briefly acknowledged the reception tendered him.

In introducing his subject—the lesson of the conferences—Mr. Ewart said he who wished to forecast the future of Canada must study its past and comprehend its present. But a few words must suffice as to the past. Information as to the records of the colonial conference.

Dealing with the history of the British colonies prior to what is called the mercantile or colonial system which lasted in the British Empire until about the date of the American revolution, Mr. Ewart proceeded to give in detail a list of the restrictions placed upon colonial products, including items such as the prohibition of the export of raw materials, the prohibition of the import of manufactured goods and the necessity of all colonial products being carried in British ships.

First Lesson of the Conferences. It was not until the 1840's, he said, that the colonies drew a breath of colonial freedom. The Free Trade League of the colonies was the question soon arose. "What now is the value of the colonies?" The answer came less and less satisfactory until at length the colonies were told that they were not millionaires around their mother's neck and the sooner they dropped off the better.

The British Empire was on the brink of dissolution when an entirely new conception of colonial relations was introduced. The United Kingdom's military strength was plainly threatening to fall into insignificance as compared with the astronomical armaments of the United States in 1870 and just as plainly the colonies were already capable of supplying some of the necessities of the mother country.

In 1884 the Imperial Federation League was organized, declaring that some form of federation was essential and that any form must adequately provide for the colonies the same rights as were enjoyed by the United Kingdom.

The lecturer then quoted resolutions passed by the league calling on the government to consider a scheme of colonial federation. The resolutions were referred to the work done during seven years, which resulted in a report from a committee which contained a number of suggestions on the lines to be followed and eventually it was determined a fresh start should be made.

CAPTURED AMERICAN BATTLE  
FLAG SOLD AT LONDON AUCTION

London, Jan. 31.—Exciting incidents were witnessed at Debenham & Storr's auction rooms when the flag of the American frigate Chesapeake, captured by the British in 1813, was put up for sale. The room was crowded. A bidder, believed to be an American, made the first offer with the sum of £100. The bidding proceeded, however, was far out, for in a few minutes the bidding reached £200 amid loud cheering and went on to £260. R. W. Partridge, dealer, was one of the keenest participants in the fight, the other champions including Guy Laking, King Edward's armorer, who made a bid of £240. Mr. Partridge's £400 offer, and then the battle was resumed with renewed energy, the price increasing by fifty pounds to £700 was reached. Mr. Partridge waved his stick and the auctioneer took the hint for another £20 rise. The bidding proceeded, however, in response to cries of "Don't let it go out of the country," made a tentative offer of £825, which, however, Mr. Partridge capot smilingly, and the hammer fell on his final bid of £850 (£8,250).



The Chesapeake flag, originally a thirty-eight gun frigate, built at Norfolk (Va.) in 1799, was partly captured by the Washington navy yard in 1807, and in June of that year, under the command of Captain Barron, started from Hampton Roads for the Atlantic on a training cruise. When well out to sea she was stopped by the British frigate Leopard, of fifty guns, whose commander demanded that Captain Barron give up a number of British deserters who were alleged to form a part of the Chesapeake's crew.

Barron refused to do so or to permit his ship to be searched for them, whereupon the Leopard opened fire, killing three and wounding eight of the Americans and seriously crippling the frigate. Only one gun was fired from the Chesapeake. Barron finally struck his flag and the British reclaimed the ship.

The incident caused the greatest excitement in the United States. President Jefferson immediately ordered all British ships to be kept out of American ports and forbidding all intercourse with them, and indignantly demanded that the British government, but without avail, which was one of the causes which led up to the war of 1812 and the capture of the Chesapeake.

During the war of 1812 the Chesapeake cruised in Southern waters, but returned to Boston and was placed under the command of Captain James Lawrence. The frigate was repaired under Captain Lawrence's direction, mounted fifty guns, and shipped a new crew.

The British frigate Shannon, fifty-two guns, commanded by Captain Philip Broke, appeared off Boston harbor and on June 1, 1813, the Chesapeake went out to meet her.

The two frigates engaged six leagues east of Boston Light and soon were at close quarters. Captain Lawrence fell mortally wounded, and as the gallant commander was recovering from a British war vessel and in 1820 was sold as old timber.

The British sometimes refer to the war of 1812 as the "War of the Chesapeake."

importance of cultivating unity with the mother country. He urged that in view of the defense which the dominion would look for in the event of war some scheme should be devised. If unity, he said, were instilled into the minds of the people statesmanship would rise to the occasion. He closed with an eloquent reference to Mr. Ewart's address.

Dr. R. F. Quigley, in seconding the vote of thanks, expressed the great pleasure that he felt in welcoming Mr. Ewart and their appreciation of the lofty standard to which he had raised the subject upon which he had touched. The vote was carried with three cheers and a tiger.

Mr. Ewart in reply hoped they would pardon a suggestion he would make to the Canadian clubs in the maritime provinces. The provinces had three governments instead of one. Why should they not be all members of one family and get together in the event of a crisis? They should be not so much difficulty in getting that unity as in imperial federation. Their individual resources were wasted for want of development and united effort and he was convinced money would be saved and could be applied to immigration and other matters of importance.

There was a magnificent future before them and much could be done. The effort would not come from the politicians and members of the legislature would be their work for that unity which would be of lasting advantage to them all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
The Battle in Queens County, and Some Light on Recent Government Bombast from That Constituency.

[The opinions of correspondents are not necessarily those of The Telegraph. This newspaper does not undertake to publish all or any of the letters received. Unpublished communications will not be noticed. Write on one side of the paper only. Communications must be plainly written; otherwise they will be rejected. Stamps should be enclosed with every letter, and in case it is not used. The name and address of the writer should be sent with every letter as evidence of good faith.—Ed. Telegraph.]

To the Editor of The Telegraph:—Sir.—It was not a little amusing to read the bombastic reports of the government meeting held at Waterborough, Queens county, as it appeared in the Liberal organ of the 5th inst. under heavy headlines "Waterborough gives Liberal candidates great reception." The Sun's correspondence goes on to tell that the "government is stronger than ever before in the parish of Waterborough" and that the candidates were given a "wonderful reception." That the report is somewhat exaggerated and is rather the product of a lively imagination or the work of a doctored brain fighting speech I am led to believe by some of the hyperbolic remarks found therein re the speakers.

Mr. Farris, so says the special correspondent, showed up the Sun's report by some of the hyperbolic remarks found therein re the speakers. Mr. Farris, so says the special correspondent, showed up the Sun's report by some of the hyperbolic remarks found therein re the speakers.

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THE CAMPAIGN IN KINGS

Sussex, Feb. 7.—(Special)—Messrs. Murray and Sprout, of the opposition ticket, addressed a fine meeting in Hammond tonight. They are making an excellent impression and meeting with most encouraging reception in every quarter. George Jones, of the government ticket, was laid up with a cold but was able to resume active work on Monday. The opposition party is growing in confidence.

Amusement is felt here over some of the reports of government meetings printed in the government newspapers. The meeting at Waterford last night was greatly exaggerated.

Messrs. McAllister and King addressed a government meeting at Fenelon last night. The Temperance hall was about half filled by the audience. The orators got a good hearing, but the meeting was by no means exciting. Carville parish is expected to give the opposition a better show than usual on March 3. No

LIFE CRUSHED OUT BY  
TRAIN NEAR GRAND FALLS

Grand Falls, N. B., Feb. 7.—While asleep on the railway track near Limestone Siding (N. B.) Wm. Sullivan was run over by this evening's C. P. R. express and instantly killed. His body was horribly mangled. The young man returned today from the woods and had been seen around the town. He had been drinking.

He boarded the St. John express for Limestone Siding, near where his home is, and leaving the train there he walked to the track. He evidently lay down to sleep and was run over. He was twenty-five years old and a son of Thomas Sullivan, a well-to-do farmer, who lives just below Limestone Siding.

Bruno Laforest, employed in Jax. Burgess & Son's mill here, met fearful injuries today. His right arm was caught in an open roller and was crushed and mangled and almost torn from the socket. What was left of the arm was amputated at the elbow by Dr. Piddington. The condition of the unfortunate man is doubtful.

A public meeting in the government interests was held in Kenyon's hall last night and was well attended. W. S. Kerston presided. James Burgess, M. P., P. M., Tweeddale, M. P., and Attorney-General McKenzie spoke. Mr. Tweeddale spoke for two hours.

Wm. Sullivan Evidently Fell Asleep on Track—Bruno Laforest Has Arm Almost Torn Off.

Port Hood, N. S., Feb. 7.—The worst disaster which ever took place in Inverness county occurred in the mine here shortly after 7 o'clock this morning. A terrific explosion of gas in one of the balances of the south level was the cause of instant death of ten miners.

The men had just descended into the pit and were about beginning work when the calamity happened. It is impossible yet to say whether any one is responsible through carelessness for the tragic occurrence but the investigation, which is to take place next Wednesday, may throw some light on this question.

The moment it became known that an explosion had occurred a rescue party was formed and as soon as feasible the brave men sought to aid their imprisoned co-workers. Their efforts, however, in so far as saving life was concerned, were in vain as all the men, ten in number, who were in this particular balance, were killed outright.

Victims Terribly Disfigured. After several hours of arduous labor the bodies were all brought to the surface. The spectacle was most gruesome and heartrending. The unfortunate victims were absolutely unrecognizable being terribly burned and disfigured. Several had their arms and legs broken, others had their skulls crushed in, their flesh was bled so badly that the doctors had made no attempts to wash the corpses.

The Dead. Malcolm Beaton, 30 years, married, leaves widow and one child. Lanchy Gillis, married, leaves widow and one child. John A. Campbell, married, leaves widow and four children. Duncan McDonald, married, leaves widow. Allan R. McDonald, married, leaves widow. William McKenzie, single. Four Bulgarians, names unknown. With the exception of the Bulgarians, all the victims were local men. A coroner's jury was empanelled and after viewing the bodies gave permission for their interment.

TEN CAPE BRETON  
MINERS KILLED AT  
PORT HOOD COAL MINE

English, they presented a sorrowful picture as they huddled together and discussed the disaster in their own language. So terrible was the explosion that miners in the north level, 3,000 feet distant, were thrown to the ground, but strangely enough the mine was not damaged to any extent.

This makes the first serious accident in the mine at Port Hood. The mine is considered a comparatively safe one. Naked lights are used in the pit.

A coroner's jury consisting of representative men in the town was empanelled and the investigation postponed until Wednesday the 12th, at which time it is expected the government inspectors will be on hand.

One touch of nature makes all the world kin," and this was the case today when every mine operating in the province immediately telegraphed offering assistance. The sister colonies of Inverness and Mabou were the first to be heard from and mine Managers Beaton and Johnston, of Inverness and Mabou, came to Port Hood fully prepared to render any assistance either with men or material. While telegrams offering assistance were received.

The directors of the Port Hood Coal Company also wired to spare no efforts to rescue the men, or recover their bodies. The explosion is unaccountable and it is yet to be determined whether caused by explosion or gas, or powder.

The funeral of the men will take place on Sunday. The victims were members of the Roman Catholic church and will be interred in the Roman Catholic cemetery.

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