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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN N. B., FEBRUARY 23 1907

THE MANITOBA ELECTIONS

The political campaign in Manitoba, preparatory for the elections early in March, may be said to be raging. The Hon. Rodmond Palen Roblin, who has been Premier since 1900, had at his back after the elections of 1903, thirty-one supporters in a House of forty, a situation not unlike that of the New Brunswick Legislature so far as the numerical strength of the parties is concerned. There is, of course, the difference that Mr. Roblin's government is Conservative, while Hon. Mr. Tweedie's is Liberal. Mr. Roblin, who is now fifty-three years old, has been in public life since 1875, and was first elected to the Legislature in 1888, so that he has been politically active during the most important period of Manitoba's history.

The Liberals began their campaign a few days ago with a banquet to Mr. Edward Brown, leader of the opposition. From the addresses delivered on that occasion by Mr. Brown and his lieutenants it would appear that the issues are many, but that perhaps a single one, transportation, is going to receive most attention. The Liberals assert that Mr. Roblin has not compelled the Canadian Northern to live up to the agreements entered into when it was liberally subsidized by the province, and that policies and corporation neglect have been to a great extent responsible for lack of branches in some districts and lack of satisfactory train service where the railroads are completed.

Mr. Brown advocates government-owned and operated telephones instead of the Roblin plan which he describes as "a chaotic system of small exchanges worked at a loss by the municipalities." In the Brown programme are included educational reforms, the increased efficiency of the public schools, the raising of the standard of teachers and teaching and greater government financial aid to all branches of education. "So that the burden on the people may be lightened, Manitoba's place in the days to come may not be behind that of any other self-governing people." His platform provides for a forward movement in agricultural affairs. "A minister who is a practical farmer should be in charge and devote his whole time. Traveling dairies, assistance in seed selection and a thousand and one other reforms, including possibly government-owned storage elevators, are waiting for a Liberal government to put them into effect." The reclaiming of the province's swamp lands by the government and the retention of the reclaimed land for sale to actual settlers is another feature of the Liberal policy. When the Liberal party came into office in 1888 they found the province practically without public lands, but with heavy liabilities. When they left office they left the province with a large area of valuable swamp lands to meet such liabilities and a quantity of swamp lands. But, to quote one of Mr. Brown's supporters: "In the seven years since hundreds of thousands of acres of additional swamp lands have passed into the possession of the province. Yet so injudiciously, so corruptly, so wastefully have these lands been administered that if the Liberal party's return to power is delayed for another four years it is safe to predict that there will be no more public lands left than in 1888, and the province's liabilities will still be in existence but increased in amount."

The battle is going to be a lively one. The general expectation probably will be that Mr. Roblin will secure another lease of power.

THE BIBLE AT OTTAWA

Mr. E. W. Thomson is shocked and amazed at the ignorance of the Bible displayed by members of Parliament. For example, he says that "in the course of debating the Future of Canada last week, that erudite assembly calmly heard Colonel Samuel Hughes refer to an old speech by Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

"Speaking of the idea that we should bid the motherland good-by, he said, 'I regret me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee for whether thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge. The people shall say my people and thy God my God.' This, sir, well expresses the sentiment of the Colonists, and I am sure that no one who reads my right honorable friend's book the question is not in Shakespeare, but it is very apt."

Very apt indeed! Mr. Thomson continues: "Now Colonel Sam is a stout warrior of the Orange lodges, in which the Bible lies wide open always, but evidently not at the familiar book in Ruth. Mr. J. H. H. a patriot who came after Colonel Sam, declared the passage to be from Shakespeare. Alas, that Colonel Ignatius Donnelly forgot to add to his laurels had been added to the laurels of Bacon, Northey could be more significant of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amiable temper than that he gravely left the Protestant orators uncorrected. There was no sign that any member save himself had ever before heard the text, though surely no other

tians. The evidence of backsliding and defection seems strong. Yet Ontario and the other Protestant provinces are always sending missionaries to convert the French of Quebec. Shall no George Borrow arise to carry the Bible to Colonel Sam and his people?"

The evidence appears conclusive. It is, some must think, a matter for congratulation that for the present at least the ignorance of things scriptural on Parliament Hill will be lessened materially by the strong leaven of the St. John delegates. On second thought it almost seems a pity that we should have sent so gaily a band of citizens on a mission to a body whom Mr. Thomson describes as some-what godless. Perhaps, after all, most of the men in the Commons when Col. Hughes spoke, recognized the quotation, but did not care to embarrass the man of war by directing attention to his somewhat singular lack of acquaintance with the Book.

FOWLER'S THREAT

Mr. Geo. W. Fowler, of Kings and Albert, rose in his place in the House of Commons late Tuesday afternoon and indulged in dark and horrid hints as to a tale he might unfold, concerning "wine and women and graft," unless government supporters ceased to refer to his (Mr. Fowler's) private business, meaning thereby certain of his activities which were one of the diverting topics touched upon by the insurance commission. Mr. Fowler has been heard of before as a probable revealer of political horrors. For some weeks past there have been rumors to the effect that if he were "driven to it," he would get up in the House and make revelations that would startle the country. Mr. Fowler we must suppose is himself responsible for these whispers as to the scandalous revelations which were to be expected provided reference to himself and his western deals were not stopped.

Mr. Fowler has said far too much or too little. No such threat as he uttered yesterday can be left where he left it by the dignified and responsible Parliament of Canada. If Mr. Fowler is possessed of any legitimate political ammunition he owes it to his party to have made it public before now. If he has knowledge affecting the government of the country, or injurious to members of the administration in the public capacity, why has he withheld it? If his story of graft and secrets is so great as his vague forecast would imply, if his knowledge threatens the seats of the mighty, if his story attains to the dignity of real public utility, why does the man make conditions about the telling of it? Why does he not open the lips which have some reputation for readiness and allow the plain unvarnished tale to trickle forth to the enlightenment of the Dominion? In short, if there is any such store of powder in the Fowler gun as the holder thereof would have a pallid country infer, what palates the Fowler trigger finger?

If it was Mr. Fowler's primary purpose to raise a considerable crop of public expectancy it may be said that he has succeeded. But that gets him nowhere. He should proceed to take the intelligent country into his confidence. Let him lay out his stock of scandals so that the people, after due inspection, may adjudge him a patriot compelled to make unpleasant revelations in the public interest, or a tricky low grade politician caught in an attempt to set a back fire for the protection of his own trail. The government should ask Mr. Fowler to speak out. The country is not to be fed upon hints. If Mr. Fowler's terrible story is not told, and if it does not justify his somewhat lurid prospectus, the country will very promptly arrive at the conclusion that he has been caught bluffing.

FOREST WEALTH

In a striking address delivered at the University of New Brunswick some years ago, Rev. W. O. Raymond dwelt upon the vital importance of the forests of this province and upon the great good that would follow a policy of protection and conservation. Already the government has adopted a new forest policy which must exercise a considerable influence upon the crown lands in the years to come, and today in Fredericton there will follow a policy of protection and conservation. Already the government has adopted a new forest policy which must exercise a considerable influence upon the crown lands in the years to come, and today in Fredericton there will follow a policy of protection and conservation.

In almost every country in the world today it is being said with regret that vast wealth was thrown away forever by the blindness of those who regarded the trees as so many enemies, who cut or burned the forests, and who thus not only robbed future generations of their timber supply but did irreparable harm to the country by reducing the flow of its streams, rendering that flow uncertain, and depriving the productive soil of the requisite amount of moisture.

In New Brunswick there is still time to take advantage of the knowledge which other countries have neglected to their lasting regret and loss. Wise legislation, followed by wise practice and intelligent co-operation by the government, the owners of timber limits and the public generally, would yet suffice to increase the present great forest wealth of New Brunswick and to make the wood lands a perpetual and every more valuable source of profit in the broadest sense. First among the steps necessary are strong measures to prevent waste by fire and by careless or ignorant lumbering methods. Of this we may be sure, that an enlightened forest policy, framed in the interests of the people, and enforced with regard first to the public good, would be a sterling investment for this province and a lasting monument to the men responsible for it.

A GENEROUS GRANT IN ORDER

Hon. C. W. Robinson very truly says, in discussing the Champlain monument, that New Brunswick has too few such memorials. Not, as the Speaker truly says,

heroes. Its records are rich, but its streets and its parks are singularly bare in point of statues to commemorate the great men who helped to make the stirring history of our early days.

Most of the members of the Legislature who give this matter their close attention will, we are sure, agree with the views of Mr. Robinson. It is fortunate that many of the legislators have been thinking about this matter, for the House must soon be called upon to make a grant in aid of the Champlain fund. It is, of course, generally known that the action of the Commons Council was postponed to permit of a conference with members of the government, and we may say that the city grant in some measure depends upon what the Legislature shall do. If the Province and the city together contribute \$2,500—and any smaller sum would be of no use now—they will still be giving only half as much as the Dominion government, though St. John and this province are much more intimately concerned in the matter than are the Federal authorities.

So far as we have heard members of the Legislature are disposed to regard this movement with frank favor. The Dominion grant and the generosity of individual subscribers have united to produce a total of \$1,260. We should be glad to know that the province would give the whole sum still necessary to be raised. It would be fully justified in doing so by the general public approbation of the movement and by the national and patriotic character of the memorial. But even if the House should grant \$1,500 and the city \$1,000, there must be feared that the Dominion grant will expire and that, to the lasting shame of the city and the province, the plan will be permitted to die.

THE FORESTRY CONVENTION

An extended report of the address made Wednesday at the Forestry Convention will be found in this morning's issue; but long as it is we could wish it longer, of so great practical value are the views, policies and suggestions set forth by the speakers. It is said the government is having a complete report of the proceedings prepared by stenographers and that it will be printed and distributed. The good accomplished by such a course would be extensive. We particularly suggest the use of New Brunswick readers the desirability of examining carefully the account of the convention printed this morning, for here truly is a meeting which will mean great things for New Brunswick if the people shall but see the grave importance of heartily seconding the government's aggressive and progressive forest policy.

The Chancellor of the University, in connection with his striking and practical address before the convention yesterday, submitted an outline of a course in forestry in connection with courses already established at the U. N. B. He said that with but few exceptions all of the subjects in the extensive programme given are now within reach of students at the University. He added that the exceptions "could be fairly covered by one competent man, a graduate of one of the leading American schools, such as the Yale Forest School. To procure the services of such a man and to suitably house the school at the University would require an annual expenditure of about \$2,500. This amount is insignificant in comparison with the immense benefit to the province to be derived from a proper knowledge of the scientific principles underlying the forest problem. No province or state of North America should be more alive to the importance of this question than the Province of New Brunswick." It certainly is true that the University needs a chair of forestry and agriculture—that the good of the province demands these extensions of the University.

As to forest reserves, reafforesting, the preventing of forest fires, the promotion of economic lumbering and such matters, each was the subject of expert treatment yesterday, and the government, it is a pleasure to feel, is prepared to go far to meet the needs of the province. To carry out the sound lines laid down. To carry out the work which Mr. Tweedie and his colleagues have in mind will involve considerable expense, but the best interests of New Brunswick now and hereafter demand that the government's forestry plans shall be carried out.

THE DELEGATES

Unless the delegates who returned home from Ottawa Wednesday are altogether too sanguine, the dredging of the harbor channel, and also that in connection with wharf construction, will be undertaken by the government without unreasonable delay. It is proposed to have a meeting here in a few days, before the Minister of Railways returns to Ottawa, at which definite plans as to what is necessary in harbor development in the immediate future will be agreed upon. As was suggested by this journal some weeks ago, action by the Dominion government making free ports of the principal harbors of the country is not contemplated in the near future. But in the interim St. John harbor must be kept up to the demands of the shipping. With the government assistance which the delegates announce there should now be every reason to hope for a prompt and successful prosecution of the work most needed.

If the city shall be able hereafter to get the projected berths finished on time, the harbor plan as to what is necessary in harbor development in the immediate future will be agreed upon. As was suggested by this journal some weeks ago, action by the Dominion government making free ports of the principal harbors of the country is not contemplated in the near future. But in the interim St. John harbor must be kept up to the demands of the shipping. With the government assistance which the delegates announce there should now be every reason to hope for a prompt and successful prosecution of the work most needed.

Wharf building, no doubt, will go forward steadily. Since it is unlikely that the government will make any loan, it may be necessary to increase the wharfage charges to some extent in order to pay interest upon the expenditure.

ing of the harbor entrance, the closing of the western channel, and the like—will occupy much time and will be expensive. But its benefit to St. John and to the whole country will be immense. We must hope that there will be no successful revival of the talk to the effect that it is impossible to secure dredges suited to the class of work to be done here.

THE SOCIALIST AND THE GREAT FORTUNES

Mr. Gaylord Wilshire, a millionaire Socialist publisher, is rebuked by the New York World for repeating the old familiar Socialist assertion that if Socialism today were ruling production and distribution any man would be able to secure a fair living by working two hours a day. The World says Mr. Wilshire, "like all Socialists," assumes that the great mass of the people are poor because capitalists seize most of the products of labor. But, the World continues, if Mr. Rockefeller's annual income of \$60,000,000 were distributed pro rata the per capita increase in income would be about a cent and a half a week. If the combined incomes of Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Carnegie, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Harriman were confiscated and distributed each inhabitant of the country would have about three cents a week more than he is getting. Even this primarily increases would hardly justify the head of the family in working half-time while he devoted the other twenty hours to sleep and the improvement of his mind.

The World challenges the Socialist to a trial of his theories. If, it says, Mr. Wilshire or any other Socialist actually believes that a standard of living approaching civilization could be maintained if nobody worked more than two hours a day, we should like to see him try it. No farmer was ever able to do it, even in pioneer days when he paid no taxes, no interest to capitalists, and had neither railroads nor trusts to oppress him. If Mr. Wilshire thinks he could do it, no doubt there are plenty of benevolent plutocrats who would be glad to stake him to 100 acres of government land. There is no better test of any man's personal productive capacity than the sort of living he is able to dig out of the soil with his own hands.

Mr. Wilshire will be able to complain, with some reason, that the criticism is wholly fair. What Mr. Wilshire could do, should be tried, not under existing conditions but under the Socialistic plan he describes, when all other men would be governed by the circumstances he predicates. But Mr. Wilshire is probably both happier and more useful now, with the wicked old world as it is, than he would be if all the changes he advocates were brought about. Some men will know more, do more, try more and acquire more than their fellows until the end. A considerable amount of beneficial regulation is evidently coming, but Socialism is not yet.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The Russian elections show extensive radical gains. The Czar dissolved the first Duma because it was not tame enough. The second will be even more independent. Will the Czar tempt fate by dissolving it?

Embroideries in the United States and Canada amounted to \$12,623,000 in 1905 and to \$18,883,000 in 1906. The sums are large. The increase is rather startling. But it is not related that any of the thieves reaped anything but misery from dishonesty, besides bringing misery upon many who were wholly innocent.

Speaking of the report that Lloyd's has insured Harry Thaw's life, the New York World remarks that this kind of insurance does not differ in principle from the bets that have been made by Chicago and Denver gamblers. Fixing the odds to suit itself the company wagers that Thaw will not be convicted of murder in the first degree.

The Bell Telephone Company yesterday surrendered to public opinion, says the Toronto Globe. "This is the real significance of the settlement proposed by the company and accepted by the operators. The investigation by the Royal Commission made public the injurious conditions under which 600 of the company's employees worked, and also the aggravation of that injury certain to result under the new eight-hour regulations."

The new United States Senator for Kansas tersely described by the Lawrence (Kan.) Journal: Born, Topeka, Kan., January 25, 1860. His mother, a quarter-blood Kaw Indian. His father, an army officer. At eight years an orphan. At fourteen a jockey and newsboy. At eighteen driving a hack and studying law. At twenty-four county attorney. At thirty-five United States Senator. And that is America.

In New York the other night a large audience of Irish sympathizers heard the editor of the Belfast Republic lecture on a proposed system of boycott against the products of England and an anti-entente cordiale adopted by the British army.

The resolutions adopted by the meeting "warned" America that James Bryce, the new British ambassador, was "coming to this country for the special purpose of effecting an alliance with England that has for its immediate object war with Germany and the retention of England's robber grip on Ireland, India, and South Africa."

num of publicity and a minimum of legislation. . . . The good will of our people is the best and biggest asset any corporation can acquire, and personally I believe that if you treat the public fairly you will get its goodwill and fair treatment in return." This says the New York Post, is a principle which the managers of public service corporations are only beginning to recognize. "The manager who tries to take the public into his confidence is a fool," has been the more common attitude. There is abundant opportunity for frankness in connection with our traction situation here, but it is needed no less in the financial than in the operating phases of the problem. If adequate facilities are being held back in order to earn dividends on altogether inadequate capitalization, it is one of the points upon which the public should be kept posted. It is a better understanding between the people who pay the fares, the governmental authorities and the shareholders."

Hon. John Burns presents the charge that the London County Council, which he is leaving after eighteen years of service, is extravagant. Speaking in support of his successor Mr. Burns told the people of Battersea they would be false to London if they allowed the work they had done during the last eighteen years to be interrupted, and interfered with in the interest of municipal factions, based upon ignorance where it was not inspired by vested interests to an extent that was a disgrace to any political campaign. He pointed to the improved condition of Battersea itself, where, and by a progressive borough which they had their police, baths, lectures, and even football fields and billiards. The death rate had dropped from 19 to 20 per 1,000 to 13 per 1,000, almost the death rate of Brighton and Scarborough, and better than that of Monte Carlo. The infant mortality had gone down in the last five years from 19 to 20 per 1,000, thanks to a small municipal experiment that only cost £100 or £200 out of the rates. Battersea now was the most sober district in the whole of the metropolis, that no person or private interest could stand in the way of the interests of the port. Mr. Mayes has no extension of his contract. It should have been completed long ago, and still there is, according to the statement of the acting minister of public works, about seven and a half months' work yet to be done by Mr. Mayes under his first contract. It should have been completed in October.

Mr. Fisher has got all the details of the work done and to be done, as well as the whole situation in St. John harbor at his finger ends. While he promised nothing definite, there is no doubt he will do all that he can to meet the wishes of the delegation. In his efforts to do this he will be backed up by the minister of railways.

There was an interesting and general discussion on what was required by the port, with the premier after the delegates left Mr. Fisher.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply to the delegation, said that he took a deep interest in the questions of trade and commerce, and therefore in regard to harbor improvements they were addressing one who was a convert. Harbors should be equipped in the best possible way to handle the traffic. All avenues of commerce should be strengthened.

The history of Canada was a fight against geography as far as trade was concerned. The construction of the transcontinental was undertaken with a view of keeping trade within Canadian channels. It was for the purpose of bringing the products of the west to Canadian seaports. The Canadian ports would have to be equipped to receive it.

There was no doubt St. John was embarrassed for lack of facilities because the trade was outgrowing the port. This was not peculiar to St. John. All ports of the continent were outgrowing the facilities they had for handling the increased traffic.

He was greatly disappointed to learn that the contract for dredging had not been carried out by the contractor within the time limit which prevents the city from building the necessary wharves for the demand of trade. Something would require to be done as early as possible to meet the conditions which now existed at the port.

The question of a dredge would have to be considered and that of having money to the city to carry on harbor work. There were many demands made upon the government for expenditures. It was not likely that St. John would make demands of that kind and afterwards charge the government with extravagance.

The delegation were well pleased with the premier's reply. All the delegates, with the exception of Mr. O'Brien, left by the afternoon train for home. They appeared well pleased with their visit, and expected that the necessary assistance will be extended by the government.

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LAURIER'S WORDS

PLEASE DELEGATES

St. John Men Told Every Consideration Would Be Paid to Port's Needs

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—The needs of the St. John port were plainly and forcefully laid before the government today and the outlook is that something satisfactory will be forthcoming before many weeks are past.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the present condition of affairs is somewhat mixed, and that there are many difficulties in the way, as was well pointed out to the delegates by Mr. Fisher at the interview which took place with the acting minister of public works this forenoon.

The government has not a dredge suitable for the work alongside the Mayes contract, and if it had the work could only be proceeded with very much under the suzerainty of Mr. Mayes.

Mayor Sears. Mayor Sears probably gave the most satisfactory and definite answer to the delegates by stating that no personal or private interests can stand in the way of the interests of the port. Mr. Mayes has no extension of his contract. It should have been completed long ago, and still there is, according to the statement of the acting minister of public works, about seven and a half months' work yet to be done by Mr. Mayes under his first contract. It should have been completed in October.

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