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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1911.

THE PASSING OF LAURIER.

Yesterday afternoon Sir Wilfrid Laurier who was called to the Premiership of Canada on July 11th, 1896, tendered the resignations of himself and Cabinet to the Governor-General and Mr. Borden was immediately sent for and invited by Earl Grey to undertake the formation of a new government. The general elections of 1896 were held on June 23 of that year. Sir Charles Tupper resigned the premiership on July 11. The interval between the defeat of the Government and the resignation of Sir Charles was 19 days. Sir Wilfrid occupied but 13 days in winding up the unfinished business of his Government, so that no complaint of unnecessary delay can be laid at his door. Two days after being called to the Premiership, Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced the names of his Cabinet, but Messrs. Fielding and Blair were not appointed until July 20th. The situation in 1896 was very similar to that of 1911, inasmuch as the estimates of the year had not all been passed. Parliament was, therefore, summoned for August 19th and continued in session until October 5. The natural assumption is, that the first session of the new Parliament will assemble early next month to complete the business when dissolution took place.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier was called to the Premiership of Canada the country was just beginning to enter upon an era of prosperity. The mild protective tariff which was adopted as a part of the National Policy advocated by the Conservative party had brought about the establishment of a great variety of new industries and promoted the development of many concerns in existence prior to 1878. The Canadian Pacific Railway, which owes its existence to the Conservative party, had been completed from St. John to Vancouver seven years prior to the advent of Sir Wilfrid as Premier. Its construction had opened up for settlement a vast area of the most fertile lands on the North American continent. Immigrants from all parts of the world were pouring into this new country and breaking up the virgin soil. Already Canada had become a wheat exporting country and the popular delusion that the great Northwest was fit only for the home of fur bearing animals and the man who made a living in gathering their skins had been removed.

The National Policy had given the farmers a home market for their produce and had also aided the industrial growth of the country to a marked degree. Canada was prosperous when Sir Wilfrid Laurier became its chief ruler and its prosperity increased because he did not disturb the leading features of the wise policy inaugurated by his great predecessor, Sir John A. Macdonald. By the Ottawa platform the Liberal party was committed to a free trade policy, but better counsels prevailed, and although the tariff was readjusted, the readjustments were such as not to materially interfere with trade. It was not until the present year that Sir Wilfrid Laurier undertook to change the old order of things and the answer he received from the people of Canada was so pronounced in its character that it is unlikely that any political leader, in the near future at least, will attempt to follow in the footsteps of the Premier who released his hold upon the reins of power yesterday.

Fifteen years is a very considerable period for a Government to hold office, but looking back, Sir Wilfrid has not scored many great triumphs. He gave us the British Preferential tariff and a second Transcontinental railway, not yet completed. More than one member of his Government was compelled to resign office because of the scandals which developed regarding departmental administration. The naval policy which he adopted was pleasing to the country as a whole any more than his lukewarm, if not sometimes anti-imperialistic utterances at Imperial Conferences he attended. Just where Sir Wilfrid stood on Imperial matters has always been in doubt, but there is a general opinion throughout the country that he was more in favor of independence than of closer Imperial ties.

For fifteen years Sir Wilfrid has been an important figure in Canadian affairs, but his achievements in that period have not been great and his attempt to foist on the country a trade agreement with the United States, which practically amounted to a trade surrender to that country, without first consulting the people, will not increase the respect in which he is held by either the classes or the masses. It was a mistaken idea of the power of the Government and does not reflect credit on his astuteness as a statesman. His passing from power as a result of his blunder will not be regretted by those who believe in a strict adherence to the precepts and practices of constitutional government.

SUNBURY-QUEENS.

After several adjournments and a good deal of bitterness and recriminating talk, Col. H. H. McLean has been declared elected to represent the Sunbury-Queens constituency by a majority of ten. The evidence of the methods of the Liberal party in conducting the election in this constituency shows that the law was openly violated at many of the election booths throughout the two counties and by the returning officer himself. To say that Mr. Dykeman's methods were loose is putting it altogether too mildly. They were the methods of a partisan who apparently had but one object in view, the securing of the election of the man who gave him his appointment. From start to finish there is scarcely an act of the returning officer that is not censurable.

The actions of the agents of Col. McLean at the polls, their open violations of the Election Law, and their indifference as to results, warrant not only a close scrutiny but in some instances criminal prosecution as well. At Lincoln, for instance, it is well known that a brother of Col. McLean was busy on election day handing out certain cryptic marks which afterwards appeared on the ballots. Other discreditable practices were common.

It is time that such high handed methods as those pursued by the representatives of Col. McLean should be put an end to in this Province once and for all. That the people of Sunbury-Queens were disgusted with the whole business was clearly shown by the energetic manner in which they hissed both Col. McLean and his henchman, the returning officer, during the declaration proceedings at Gagetown. There was a marked contrast between the enthusiastic hearing accorded Mr. Smith, and the hisses and jeers with which Col. McLean was received in his own constituency.

The Telegraph tries to make it appear that there was an organized effort to prevent Col. McLean being heard. There is no foundation for such a statement. Decent people do not require to organize in dealing with such election methods as are charged against Col. McLean's friends and supporters. Hisses, not cheers, are what

would naturally be looked for under the circumstances, and these seem to have been handed out to Col. McLean rather freely to his extreme discomfort.

HEROINES OF THE SWITCHBOARD.

Rarely is there a catastrophe which shocks and startles the world with its horror but there stands out some deed of heroism, some instance of a man or may be a woman, ready at a moment's notice to risk even life itself in an effort to save others from destruction. The bursting of the Bayless dam in Pennsylvania was no exception. In this case the honor fell to two telephone operators, Miss Kathleen Lyons and Miss Lena Blackley, both very young women, who by remaining at their posts saved hundreds of lives when the dam gave way.

Miss Lyons, sixteen years of age, on hearing the fire whistle, which was situated about four miles from the exchange, realized that the dam had broken and remaining at her switchboard gave the alarm to nearly everyone in Austin who had a connection, in time for an escape to the hills. She also sent urgent warning messages to Costello, a little town two miles below Austin, which also saved many in that community from destruction. Miss Blackley in the same exchange warned all persons she could reach. While the crest of the flood was swirling towards the telephone building the two girls sent the first news of the disaster to the outside world, holding their posts until they had barely time to save themselves from being swept away in the rushing torrent.

One of the most successful of recent plays, "The Woman" treats of the zeal, courage and quick wit of a telephone operator, but the dramatist has imagined nothing more striking than the fidelity and heroism shown by these young women in the day's work. It is inevitable that the telephone girl should generally be regarded humorously, and presumably her experience leads her to regard the rest of the world in the same way, when she possesses sufficient self-control and philosophy to overlook the needless annoyances to which she is subjected. But the girl at the switchboard may be called upon, in the performance of her seemingly humble duty, to display high qualities, and the two operators who figured so conspicuously in the Austin disaster were not found wanting when their opportunity came. The decision of the local telephone company to permanently give the youthful heroines double pay is a well merited reward.

STEP BREATHING.

While most persons are aware of the importance of deep breathing, few practice it habitually. They have heard or read that singers, who are obliged to breathe deeply, escape lung troubles, and that the germs of consumption thrive in persons who live in rooms the air in which is so tainted or close as to discourage such breathing. It has been ascertained that the number of our breaths is doubled by driving, troubled by ordinary walking, and quadrupled by rapid walking or fast horseback riding; and to this acceleration is due part of the value of such exercises. But in them many lack the time or opportunity to indulge as often as is desirable, while others are prevented from doing so by indolence or lack of will power.

A Dresden professor named Walther now comes forward with a plan which enables every one to enjoy the hygienic advantages of deep breathing without special effort or loss of time. His method, which he calls "Schrittathmung" (step breathing), consists in breathing consciously and regularly, taking, say, four steps during an inhalation, and the same number during an exhalation. After a short time this rhythmic breathing becomes a habit, and is practiced to the great advantage of one's health. Dr. Walther suggests that this simple and effective method should be introduced in schools, in the army, and in sanatoriums.

Current Comment

(Winnipeg Telegram.)

The Canadian banking system is as good as any yet devised. It could be greatly abused because there is nothing in it to cause the contraction of credits in times of great prosperity. In that respect we are dependent wholly upon the moderation and judgment of our bankers. These have not failed us so far. But in times of depression, which keeps the wheels of commerce moving freely until the storm is over. The consequence is that we are not, and cannot be, hit like the United States by these thunder-plumps known as financial panics. The reason is, not because the storm is not here, but because we have a thoroughly serviceable raincoat and umbrella.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Hiram C. Gill was elected mayor of Seattle, served a few months, didn't suit, and was recalled. George W. Dilling took his place last February. After six months of Mayor Dilling the recall machinery was again put in motion and signatures were easily obtained, though the objections to Dilling are vague. But the business men of the city have protested with a formal and unanimous howl. Business can't be done, they say, and the city won't grow if there is to be this constant agitation in politics. So probably Mayor Dilling will stick.

(Winnipeg Telegram.)

Victor Geoffroy, late member for Chambly, will be among the missing in the new Parliament. Geoffroy was chairman of most of the alleged "investigation" committees, appointed under pressure by the Laurier Government. His astonishing rulings in the public accounts inquiry will be remembered by newspaper readers. Mr. Geoffroy was largely responsible for the miscarriage of justice which marked the proceedings of his inquisitorial committees.

(Hartford Courant.)

The pardon by Governor Dix of Captain Haines, the murderer, is another invitation to aggrieved citizens to take the law into their own hands and kill when they get mad. This man deliberately planned to shoot an acquaintance and did shoot him. The first question and anxiety was whether the jury would hang him. That over, it has been how soon would he get his pardon. He's got it. Better not get him mad again.

(Toronto Star, Lib.)

Little heed need be paid to reports that the Hon. George E. Foster will be excluded from Mr. Borden's Cabinet. He is entitled to a place on the score of both services and ability. He is moreover, the ablest debater on the Government side, and his party will hesitate before consigning him to the Senate.

(Lethbridge News.)

Pugsley has during his regime as Minister of Public Works, gathered about him at St. John a horde of camp followers and dredging contractors, who have been fattening at the public crib, and they excited a powerful influence in the recent contest.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

The retirement of James Connors from the House of Commons will remove a very unique figure in Parliament, but it will bring in the first Quaker ever elected to the House in Canada.

(Bangor News.)

A forecast of Canada's population gives it as slightly under 8,000,000. But how like blazes they do vote up there!

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BANQUET TO MR. FOWLER.

Belleisle Station, Oct. 6.—On Thursday evening of the 5th inst., the Conservatives of the Parish of Springfield held a banquet for Mr. Geo. W. Fowler, member elect, by holding a banquet at the home of Geo. Bates, Esq. About 200 people were present and a most delicious supper was served, after which speeches were made by the chairman, Alex. Stewart and J. D. O'Connell and Havelock, a rising young barrister of Sussex. During the evening a number of national songs were sung and a large bonfire erected on the square. All enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent. Much credit is due the committee and to those who helped make it a success.

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"CONDOR CHARLIE" FEELS A FOMENT OF MOHAMMEDANS

On 13.3.3 on the Mediterranean Looks Very Ominous to Beresford—Religious War will Touch Britain.

(Vancouver World.) "Deploable! Deploable!" broke out Lord Charles Beresford this morning, when a newspaperman showed him a cable from Rome containing the terse and ominous message: "Italy has declared war on Turkey." Lord Charles, who won his sobriquet, "Condor Charlie," for his bravery in taking the Condor under the guns at Alexandria, reflected for a moment.

Then he said: "This may end in a religious struggle throughout the world. Who can say but that it will result in a jihad. This is surely bad news. It is deplorable."

Lord Beresford viewed the complications, but the "cradle of nations" from the standpoint of a fighting man who knows the situation among the nations in Southern Europe and the people along the northern coast of Africa.

He saw in it the stirring up of the Mohammedans. What the significance of the trouble between Italy and Turkey is to Great Britain was explained by him when he said:

"It is bad for England because England exercises a suzerainty over the biggest Mohammedan area in the world—India."

"You would not venture that this thing will develop into a world war, Lord Charles?" "No man can tell. It's the stirring up of the Mohammedans."

Hostilities are breaking out in a portion of the earth that has been in political ferment for 5,000 years. The ancient city of Carthage stood within the confines of the present Tripoli. The boundaries of that state have been changing constantly.

Tripoli furnished a battle ground for the ancient nations—for the Romans, Egyptians and Greeks. Discussing the fitness of the Italians and Turks respectively to go in to battle, Lord Charles declared that the Turkish and Italian young baristers of Sussex. During the evening a number of national songs were sung and a large bonfire erected on the square. All enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent. Much credit is due the committee and to those who helped make it a success.

Why Italy should wish to take over Tripoli, Lord Charles would not venture an opinion. It is possible, however, that the Italians desire the state as a colonial possession.

Lord Charles answered that he did not believe that the Triple Alliance now existing between France, Austria and England would be the means of drawing other European nations into conflict.

In England those who know the situation, believe that in a war, Italy would look to Germany for backing. In that case, the British could look to England for assistance. This, with the bringing into the question of the millions of Mohammedans in Africa and Asia gives the whole situation a dangerous color.

It was the trouble stirred up in the eighties by Mohammedan agitator, Abdul Arabi Pasha, that occasioned "Condor Charlie's" appearance before Alexandria. Result of that trouble was the passing of Egypt under a British protectorate.

Thus, Lord Beresford's words on the present trouble are the words of a man who understands the real possibilities of another Mohammedan foment.

Britannia has been betrayed. When the war dogs of Europe are turned loose, Great Britain's supremacy of the seven seas may be jeopardized.

While the children throughout the nations that go to make up the British Empire sing the glories of the British fleet, and while poets write their songs and orators talk of the greatness of King George's sea power, Great Britain's politicians are allowing their cruisers to go to the scrap heap, are failing to advance educational schemes, shipbuilding and are failing to keep up the numerical standard of the navy.

Lord Charles Beresford realizes this. These foregoing paragraphs are not quotations from his lips, but in an interview last night, the British admiral deplored the fact that Britain at this moment is not organized for war, is without a naval policy, and is generally in a dangerous position as the supreme power among the nations.

"How would we in ourselves, sir, in the event of the outbreak of a European war?" the former admiral of the British fleet was asked as he reclined in his armchair in his apartments at the Hotel Vancouver.

"We would find ourselves hopelessly without organization as far as the navy is concerned," declared Lord Charles.

"We would find ourselves," continued the sea lord, "without a naval policy."

"I exposed the whole state of affairs," he continued, "after my withdrawal from the Channel fleet in a speech at the London chamber of commerce, June, 1909. I drew out at that time a statement of naval policy, pointing out the weak spot in our naval organization."

"But my words of warning were received with derision by the Admiralty—derision, I say."

"Since that date certain of your policies have been followed out—policies you outlined in the chamber of commerce address?" Lord Charles was asked.

"In the past two years," was the reply, "35,000,000 pounds sterling has been devoted to the items I called attention to in my speech," said Lord Charles, with some enthusiasm, "and I want to tell you that I have always won my case these five and twenty years."

The British navy, the greatest marine power the world has ever seen is sinking into mediocrity, was then touched upon by Lord Beresford. He placed the reasons for decay under six heads:

(1) Failure of an education scheme in the navy.

(2) Absence of shipbuilding progress.

(3) Scrapping of cruisers without reason.

(4) Shortage of men.

(5) Shortage of docks.

(6) Stultification of admiralty statements.

More shall be heard from Lord Charles upon these sub-heads when



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he returns to Britain. He promises to go into a thorough discussion of them.

Of these six sub-heads, the one under which will come the big sensation will be "Stultification of Admiralty statements."

To stultify, according to the dictionary, means to make foolish; to make a fool of; to stultify one's self by silly reasoning or conduct; to regard as a fool, or as foolish.

"Therefore," Lord Charles charged last night in his interview with the Vancouver newspaperman that the experts employed by the British admiralty, in their reports, since 1902, had regarded the members of the admiralty as foolish and silly and had made their reports along the same lines.

"The statement that I make," said Beresford, "is that the government has been misinformed by its naval experts."

"No, I shall change that," he hastened to correct. "The experts either gave wilful misinformation, or the experts gave correct information which the government would pay no attention to."

As the interview proceeded, Lord Charles gave it to be understood that unless the British admiralty brought about a renaissance in naval program, the outlook would be dark for the empire in the event of war breaking out with Germany—England's covetous rival.

Germany, said Lord Charles, has had a naval programme since 1901. He averred that Great Britain could thank herself if the other great nations gave her a second place on the seas. He pointed out how England had started the Dreadnought craze. Having started it, she didn't continue to keep up her end.

A word for the Canadian navy. Lord Beresford inferred in his statement on that topic a thorough vindication of the naval policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Canadian policies, he said, were not for him to discuss. Nor was it his place to tell Canada what she should do.

"Owing to senseless swagger and arrogance," said the British admiral, "regarding Dreadnoughts, all the nations are building up fleets at the same moment."

Lord Charles said that each unit of the British Empire should have a navy

for the protection of the ends of the British trade routes.

"The nations within the Empire," he said, "must contribute a lump sum for the advancement of an imperial navy policy, or they must start their own naval units."

"People in Canada," said the great sailor, "mustn't feel disheartened because they are chaffed about their present little navy."

"They must have some beginning and the Canadians, in bringing into effect a naval programme, are but doing their duty."

The funeral of Miss Nellie Hector took place at 2.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon from her home, Spar Co. Road, Cedar Hill cemetery. Rev. Dr. Hutchings conducted the services.

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