

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 19, 1903.

THE REASONABLE PROPOSAL.

Some of Hon. Mr. Blair's newspaper critics have sought to create the impression that he stands opposed to any further railroad construction under any circumstances, and have otherwise distorted his speech. The former Minister of Railways believes in building as rapidly as the necessities of a country demand, but he would first be sure that the new construction is planned according to sound business principles and in the best interests of the country which is to pledge its credit to meet the bill. He appealed to the calm reason of the people. His speech was constructive as well as destructive. To quote one passage:

"Now, Sir, my proposition is this: We ought to have come before parliament as a government, and we ought to have said to parliament and to the country: 'We are favorably impressed with the importance of the early construction of another transcontinental railway, but as business men, as prudent and cautious men, we think that the proper course for us to take is to get an appropriation from parliament in order that this whole country which is in it proposed the railway shall traverse in so far as it has not been officially explored, and in so far as we have not been made familiar with its conditions, shall be ascertained and made known to the people of Canada, laid before parliament at a later day; and then if these reports are favorable it is our fixed purpose to ask parliament to justify us and authorize us to go along with railway construction in this territory. My idea would be that we should go as far as we could reasonably and as the necessities would justify, and when we got through that we should then call a halt until the necessity arose for further extension through the western country. We would have our officials on the alert and they would see when the growing needs and prospects of the country would justify a further extension, and when that time came, then if nobody else entertained it, and even if they did, my idea would be that we should continue our road along; go right along through, go along just as we required to do it in the true interest of the country. Then this discussion, which I have said was so necessary, would have taken place. The public press would take the project up; the public platform might perhaps, be used to some extent, parliament would discuss the matter in all its bearings, and you would get the ideas of the people as to whether government ownership and government operation, or company ownership and company operation would be the most desirable, and the arguments would be brought pro and con, and you would have the people of Canada put in possession of all the facts of the scheme which was to be adopted before they were irrevocably committed to its adoption."

"What practical man is prepared to say the foregoing proposal is not reasonable? The delay advised is in no sense formidable. It can imperil no interest of importance. It is in the interests of Canada and of the Liberal party. It may not be welcome to the railroad promoters, but, in theory at least, the plan is to build for the people, not the promoters."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND CURES.

In these columns a short time ago attention was directed to the alleged cure of severe physical injuries by a Rev. Mr. Simonson, formerly a Methodist minister, but now a Christian Science "healer" in one of the New England states. Comment was made on his statement that when one of his children had been severely burned the "cure" was not instantaneous but occupied some little time. The Telegraph's remarks have called forth a letter from a representative of a Science church in Boston. The letter is printed on another page this morning. It appears from this letter, and from statements made by a St. John believer in the Science who brought the communication to this office, that Scientists disclaim miraculous power and that a "cure" may occupy more or less time according to the degree of perfection acquired by the person undertaking it. The Telegraph is informed, for instance, that in case of injury such as a broken leg, the Scientists are now directed to call in a surgeon, because they have not yet made sufficient progress in their faith to be always independent of surgical aid. The ordinary layman whose leg was

broken presumably would incline to profit by the sure aid of the surgeon, and if the patient were a child, or a person under the control of friends, the law and public opinion make the summoning of a surgeon imperative upon those immediately charged with the patient's welfare. And, once called, the surgeon should be first in command in the sick chamber. In case of malignant or dangerous diseases it is obvious that the same rule should be followed. Nor is it necessary that the enforcement of such a rule should interfere with the exercise of a religious faith by honest adherents of it.

Also, since some "healers" are, admittedly, more efficacious than others, and some may be a positive menace to the patient, it is not at all unreasonable that a standard should be fixed, as for medical practitioners, failing to reach which no man would be permitted to undertake the treatment of any human being in ill-health or suffering from physical injury. How could such a standard be fixed? That is for the Christian Scientists, to determine, for the difficulty—a grave one—is of their creation. It is for them to conform to such laws as relate to the treatment of the sick. The state punishes but it solves no difficulties such as sometimes attend the practice of this Science. The state's business is to see that nothing is done with impunity which, measured by its laws, is an offence. So some such standard will in time be necessary—if the law is to recognize Christian Science—for the protection of children or persons who for one reason or another are not independent agents. And, if cases of contagious disease are not reported to the proper authorities, the law provides for the punishment of those failing to make the facts known. A full grown man or woman apparently of sound mind who refuses medical or surgical aid in case either is necessary is hopeless—save perhaps for Christian Science—for the measure of liberty enjoyed by the individual is large.

STRATHCONA ON CHAMBERLAIN.

Lord Strathcona, who arrived in Montreal Sunday, made a most interesting declaration regarding Mr. Chamberlain, one which must carry no little weight because of its source and of the exceptional opportunities the High Commissioner has had to form an opinion. "I am of the opinion," he said, "that the matter will be put so plainly to the people that the Colonial Secretary must succeed."

Mr. Chamberlain will begin his campaign in Glasgow, Lord Strathcona thinks. If his proposals are endorsed by the British people the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the finance ministers of the Colonies will meet and arrange a basis of agreement "best suited not only to Canada and the other great self-governing Colonies but to the Empire as well." If beaten, says Lord Strathcona, Mr. Chamberlain will keep up the fight. There has been thus far no expression of confidence in Mr. Chamberlain's success so calculated to impress Canadians as that just quoted.

Yet the task before the Colonial Secretary is herculean, for as yet his scheme is somewhat vague, and he must make it definite when he begins his round of speeches; and he must make many converts. The average Englishman knows little enough today about the British end of the question and nothing at all about the Colonial end of it. As the newspaper commissioner to Great Britain, whose letters The Telegraph is printing, says, it is of the utmost importance that the Chambers of Commerce delegates visiting Canada this summer should learn thoroughly what the preference means for Canada, what Canada means and may mean to the Empire, how great our resources and prospects are and how vital it is that the British people shall grasp the full measure of the Chamberlain's plan. There is much reason to fear that unless Mr. Chamberlain proves an instructor of unexampled power, the British electors will look only at the plan where it touches them at home and will not appreciate the Colonial Secretary's larger aims.

A QUESTION AND AN ANSWER.

The Moncton Transcript expresses the opinion that The Telegraph, as a Liberal newspaper, has exceeded the bounds of legitimate criticism in its opposition to the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, and in lamenting our attitude, speaks of this newspaper as "professing" to be in sympathy with the Liberal party and yet, by implication at least, "heaping contumely upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

Liberal party. Extensive railroad construction is needed, but not in the form proposed.

The Telegraph's object is to use whatever influence it may possess to prevent the party it has always served from making a grave mistake. If the Transcript can give the scheme an unqualified support, we find no fault with that journal for expressing its convictions, but the Telegraph now, as in the past, holds itself free to withhold its approval of any measure which it cannot honestly commend.

THE NEW SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The Telegraph prints on another page this morning a cut and plane of the New Brunswick School for the Deaf, which will be opened in a few weeks on Lancaster Heights. Some time ago the announcement was made that Mr. J. Harvey Brown had purchased the Jewett property there. The house is an excellent one for the purpose, the location is a fine one and the grounds are extensive. A board of managers, made up of some of the foremost men of the city, has been chosen, and in a few weeks the school will be ready to receive the pupils, of whom about forty or fifty are expected to be in attendance at the opening of the first term.

The local legislature last session decided to devote \$165 for the maintenance of each deaf child of school age, in this province, at such a school. Thus, when a suitable home for the school was secured, and a board of managers chosen, there remained two important matters—the equipment of the school and the selection of a competent staff of instructors. Generous subscriptions have in some measure provided for necessary alterations and the equipment of the buildings, but further assistance will be necessary. The object is one which must commend itself to all, and it is hoped the balance of the money necessary will soon be subscribed. Mr. James A. Weaver will be principal and chief instructor and will have the assistance of a staff of trained teachers. Mr. Weaver was for a long time connected with the Margate School for the Deaf, a leading school of this kind in England, and for nearly three years was a valued instructor in the Halifax School for the Deaf.

By untiring energy and earnest effort, therefore, a school for the deaf children within our own province is about to be opened. It may be mentioned that the best results, as experience shows, are obtained in schools where the number of pupils is not very large. Indeed, in every way, the new school on Lancaster Heights bids fair to do well the good work for which it has been established.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The men whose highly commendable efforts have established the New Brunswick School for the Deaf in Lancaster Heights may well complain of the unfair course pursued at present by the managers of the Halifax school. No canvass for pupils is made by the Halifax school in Nova Scotia, although the official reports show that there are many deaf children in that province who never attended the Halifax school, or any other, and whose parents, it appears, would naturally be visited by the Halifax representatives before they sought pupils in New Brunswick. But the Halifax school was recently recalled from his vacation and sent into New Brunswick to secure the promise of parents of deaf children to send them to Halifax. In view of the fact that a properly equipped school in this province will soon be ready to receive pupils, this Halifax activity is extraordinary and questionable. It would not be so open to question if all the children in Nova Scotia had already been cared for, but that is not the case. The canvass referred to threatens to lead to unnecessary complications and is a direct menace to the new school so soon to be opened here.

CONSISTENT AND FORCEFUL.

Discussing Hon. Mr. Blair's personality, in connection with the stand on the G. T. Pacific matter, the Charlottetown Guardian (Ind.) says in part:

Accustomed himself to lead and to shape the policy of his party in provincial affairs, laying his plans with careful deliberation, and committing himself to no measure that he had not fully considered, Mr. Blair would be about the last man in Canada to be either coerced or persuaded to support a policy in which he did not believe, or to condone it by his silence. The astute examiner is a man of strong convictions, and he has always had the courage to maintain them. He is resolute and courageous to a degree that few of his colleagues, and equally few strong. No one doubts that he has given more thought and consideration to the question of Canadian transportation than any of his colleagues, and equally no one can doubt that with his fuller knowledge than they of the question under consideration his honest convictions are equally exposed to the policy upon which they have entered. If we concede this much we must see that no other course was fairly open to him than that which he has taken.

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last legislature, and a careful reading of that act shows that if the New Brunswick school is of a satisfactory character and fulfils certain conditions, deaf children residing in New Brunswick may be maintained in it by a provincial grant of \$165 per capita yearly. Section thirteen of the act follows:

Should a school for the education of deaf or deaf mute persons be established within this province, having on the board of directors or management, the attorney general and provincial secretary of this province, and at least two persons each of whom is deaf mute or the parent of a deaf mute child, the Lieutenant-governor-in-council may, if and while the location, character, conduct and management of such last mentioned school is approved by him, by order-in-council, from time to time, ordain and require that all deaf or deaf mute persons entitled to the benefit of this chapter, or all those over or under a specified age, or otherwise classified or designated, shall be admitted under the provisions of this chapter to such last mentioned school only; and may at any time revoke or alter such order-in-council as shall seem most expedient in the interests of deaf or deaf mute children in this province.

Reading the act in connection with the fact that a school has been established here, the next step in order, apparently, is the inspection of this school by the proper authorities. If that inspection warrants the decision that the institution fulfils the requirements specified, it should then be officially recognized and further complications would be obviated.

The new school here is a purely philanthropic enterprise. It has been promoted by those who have given much earnest attention to the education and care of the deaf. It is a New Brunswick school and an extensive outlay has been made in order that nothing may be wanting. It would be most regrettable if at this time delay or lukewarmness in the matter of officially recognizing its fitness for the work in hand should endanger its future.

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Some lines are reduced to ones of a pattern in a size and these we are clearing out at Half Price. Former prices were \$12.00, 15.00, 18.00, 20.00. Come and get your size and pay half-price.

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\$2.39 reduced from \$3.25, 3.50, 3.75, 4.00.	\$3.95 reduced from \$4.50, 5.00, 5.25, 5.50.	Kilt Suits, 2 to 5 years. \$2.00 reduced from \$2.50; 2.75, 3.00.
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SPRINGFIELD FARMER
DEAD FROM INJURIES.

Wm. McAdoo Fell from His Wagon While Unloading It, and Passed Away 24 Hours Later.

Springfield, Kings county, Aug. 17.—William McAdoo, one of the oldest residents of this parish, met with a sudden and fatal accident on Thursday last. Deceased had just returned from Norton Station where he had purchased among other things a number of bags of feed. While holding one of the bags on the hind part of the wagon box awaiting the return of his assistant, the bag slipped off and losing his balance, he fell out, striking his head heavily on the ground. Medical aid

was quickly summoned but of no avail, and within twenty-four hours after the accident he passed quietly away.

Sunday witnessed one of the largest funerals ever seen in this section. The services were conducted by Rev. Mr. McKay, and the body laid to rest at the Kirk burying ground, Crowned Hill.

The G. T. Pacific debate proceeds, but little additional light is being shed upon some really important points, regarding which the country lacks information.

An attempt to discuss the Grand Trunk Pacific matter was ruled out of order at the Montreal Congress yesterday. Lord Brassey evidently fears the scheme is loaded.

The Toronto Telegram (Con.) urges the Conservatives to go in for public ownership of railways and adds that they can make no party progress if they wait for instructions from the C. P. R. half the time and for orders from the Canadian Northern the other half.

Melt together a little mutton fat and beeswax, and, when liquid, rub a little of it over the edges of boot soles, where the stitches are. This will render your boots quite waterproof.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Hon. Mr. Chamberlain should be pleased with the opening achievements of the Montreal Congress. They show which way the wind blows.