

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JULY 17, 1908.

The nominee of the Union Reform party in this county does not appear to be satisfactory to the editorial writer of the Western Chronicle. This is not surprising, seeing that no effort was made by the nominating convention to measure to the standards of that individual or his friends in the choice of a candidate. The fact that Mr. Eaton is not endorsed by this coterie should form a sufficient reason for his election. That the affairs of this county have been too long in the hands of men of the mental and moral calibre of the Chronicle scribe is becoming more and more apparent. It's time for a change.

The Conservatives of Pictou county at an enthusiastic convention held last week unanimously nominated Mr. C. E. Tanner, the talented leader of the opposition in the House of Assembly, as their candidate at the approaching federal election to take the place of personal reasons resigned the position. Mr. Tanner is a brilliant parliamentarian, being without doubt the ablest man of either party in the local house. While his departure from local politics will be a decided loss to the province, the broader spheres of usefulness country. It is generally conceded that he will easily defeat E. M. MacDonald, the present member for Pictou in the commons.

The Unity of Interest.

Back of all civilization, all progress, all human development in the social and national, large lies the recognition of the greatest of all human facts: the unity of interest. By this all human forces are rightly co-ordinated for the efficient service of all, and made to fulfil their highest function. It is the germ thought from which springs the new impulse and inspiration that shall sometime transform this world of ours from a mass of antagonistic and straggling atoms into an orderly and advanced organization of co-operating units.

Much is heard to-day of what is known as 'class interests.' The term is not without its justification and wisdom. There are class antagonisms that must be recognized and resisted. There can never be unity of interest between the robbed and the robber. All the eloquent appeals of the latter for its recognition cannot avail. He is abnormal, and not part of the unified scheme of things. He is no more a part of the body social than a boil or a carbuncle is a legitimate part of the body human. And so long as there are any of these abnormal classes, pilfering a profit from their fellows by means illegal or otherwise, it is highest wisdom to refuse to be blinded by the dust of a sweeping assertion.

But underlying such abnormal antagonisms lies the great fact of the common duty of all men in all the interests that are normal and healthy. In the fundamental concerns of life, all men are at one. They are one in the possession of red blood, of human nature, and of the realities that make life worth while. However different they may be in the fulfilments of flower and fruitage, the root is the same. In the greatest facts and the closest relations of life, there is the fullest unity. In all the realities, all men are kin. Differences are superficial.

To put this principle into action is the highest function of the citizen. All this striving for one's own selfish interest is not only selfish—it is misdirected and fruitless effort. It defeats its own ends. Boomeranglike, such efforts only return to self hurt. Strike any other man, whoever he may be, and you have in reality struck yourself. Rob him, and you have stolen from yourself. The sharper the game you play in business, the more does it cut you. Commercial competition is at bottom the strife of the one hand against the other. Where the gain of one man or of one class results in the loss of some other man or class, there is net loss, and no gain whatever.

What ideal could be better or bigger than that of making this Canada of ours the nation that makes this principle dominant in its life and aims? Never yet has any nation committed itself frankly to this splendid law, working it out into social action and industrial method. Never yet has any country had the fine ability to believe that the interests of the lowest and meanest man within its borders were identical in every respect with those of the noblest and best in the land, and shown its faith by enactments that placed his interests on a level with those of the strongest and most successful. Herein lies our finest opportunity. It may be our unique mission among the nations—to exalt the rights of the lowest, to proclaim the dignity of the meanest, to assert the essential place and power of the weakest—let it be known that here no man stands alone, engaging in a barbaric individualistic struggle for existence, but as one of many—as one of all.

Mr. Robertson, the ex-Minister of Railways, has experienced a revival. He addressed a liberal meeting at Moncton a little ago, and intimated that he is still the leader of New Brunswick Liberals. Charles Hyman will be coming forward next to represent Ontario Liberalism, and Sir Frederick Borden that of Nova Scotia.

Those indebted to this office will help us greatly by making prompt payment.

As It Stands.

Business opinion with regard to the Laurier Government is that another term of office for that extravagant, grafting outfit will mean ruin for the country. The latest financial exploit confirms this view. In December last the estimates of expenditures for the present year were laid before Parliament. They called for the extraordinary and unexampled sum of \$19,237,091. Since then there has been a remarkable fall in the revenue. In April there was a drop of more than a million. In May we had a like experience. For the month of June the reduction in the revenue, compared with last year, was \$1,614,000.

Along with the declining revenue we are suffering a loss of credit in the money market. The Finance Minister tried to borrow \$25,000,000 at 3 1/2 per cent. the other day, and while the underwriters took hold of the loan, the public did not. So that we cannot borrow now at 3 1/2 per cent. although a few years ago, when the country was enjoying the results of a careful and honest administration, we were able to get money, all we needed, at 2 1/2 per cent. It is to be doubted that we can to-day raise money at 4 per cent. which is 1 1/2 more than was contracted for in 1897, one year after the late Government went out. Now our revenue is decreasing, and our credit is being lowered. In 1897 our revenue for the services of the current year, and after incurring a debt of \$2,850,000 in the purchase of seed grain for the West, comes down with supplementary estimates calling for \$10,565,000 more. This makes the expenditure propositions for the current year no less than \$12,752,000. If we want to know what this means, let us contrast the figures of to-day with those of a few years ago. Here they are:

1896\$ 41,702,383
1908108,778,000
1909132,752,000

In 1896 our outlays stood at \$8.14 per head. Last year they reached \$18 per head. For the present year the estimate, which stood at \$20 per head a few days ago, has now been lifted to \$22 per head. For the fiscal year ending last March we had a deficit of \$12,688,000, so far as acknowledged by the Government. This was when we spent \$108,778,000 and had a large income. This year we are to spend \$132,000,000, and we have a reduced income. That the deficiency will be large goes without saying.

We shall be fifty or sixty millions behind. Where is that money to come from? We must borrow it from the money lenders who to-day refuse to lend us money at 3 1/2 per cent, and perhaps more. We are now getting a taste of the effects of graft. The policy of graft works in many ways. We meet with it in the 'take-off,' under which the partisans of Sir Wilfrid charges the country for supplies or for land twice the proper price. We meet with it again in such operations as the North Atlantic Trading Company, in which the country pays hundreds of thousands of dollars for nothing. We are confronted with it once more in the outlays that are made on public works, not for business purposes, but solely for politics—the wharves and breakwaters, for example, that are employed to ensure the election of Fielding. Again, it is forced upon our attention in those enormous and useless schemes that are entered upon, not because of their national value but because of the work they give to the contractors, who, in turn, are bled for the election funds.

For the carnival of graft we are already paying dearly. During the past twelve years there has been taken from the channels of business no less than \$228,000,000 more in the shape of taxes than would have been taken had the Conservative scale of taxation been adhered to. This drain upon the people is one of the causes of the depression which business has experienced. We have suffered for the extravagance and the dishonesty of our Ottawa rulers. The new scale of expenditure—\$132,000,000 in one year—means either that we must have a bigger debt, or that there must be heavier taxes. In either case the situation is disastrous. More taxes will reduce the purchasing power of the people. More debt will impair the credit of every man doing business abroad. We have to do something with the situation which the Ottawa politicians have brought about, and the only solution of the difficulty at present in sight is an absolute change of men and of methods.

A Worthy Movement.

The following resolution made by Rev. R. F. Dixon, seconded by Mr. O. D. Harris was unanimously passed at the meeting of the Board of Trade held last Wednesday.

"That a committee consisting of Messrs. J. F. Herbin, R. W. Starr, W. T. Ford, I. B. Osken, and the mover and seconder, with power to add to their number, be appointed to consider the matter of procuring a public athletic ground, to report at a special meeting of the Board. Convener, Mr. J. F. Herbin.

To Editor.

DEAR SIR:—Permit me to very heartily commend this movement to the people of our town and to solicit your own co-operation. School playgrounds is quite inadequate. You will hear from us again.

Yours very truly,
R. F. Dixon.

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School Examinations.

The following letter in Wednesday's Halifax Herald on the public school system contains a large measure of truth and sound common sense:—

Sir,—Just a few days ago I read a most timely article in your paper, discussing the duration of the scholastic year for the teachers and pupils under our provincial school system.

I thank God that we have at least one metropolitan publication which seems to understand that the 'white man's burden' is bearing too heavily upon our public school teachers and their pupils. Of course, the working time of the educational year might be shortened, with a most decided advantage and profit to all concerned. As you very truly say, 'The college professors and students find the collegiate year of quite sufficient duration; why then should our younger students and their teachers be required to wear their lives away at season, when all might be much more profitably employed in enjoying and studying the wonderful workings of the evolutions of nature as they are gradually being unfolded day by day.

However, your proposition, sir, will not be acted upon unless the parents of children bestir themselves and make it clear to the members of the Board of Education what their wishes are in this matter.

If it were possible that Christ could have visited Halifax during the last week, certainly somebody would have received a well merited 'scourging with whips,' from Him who has said: 'Whoever shall cause one of these little ones to offend, it were better for him, etc. Just think of those poor children taking the government examinations last week, many of them at a most critical period of their existence; held up by cast-iron regulations, and controlled by most arbitrary applications of the same, compelled to fill in answers to questions propounded by 'list of ages professors' who could not answer them themselves in twice the time allowed to the students; indeed it would make little difference if most of them were never answered by anybody, for all the practical value they bear to the needs of the average student's future existence. But the 'poor innocents' with the mercury registering in the vicinity of 90 degrees, are expected to make a high pass mark on all the 'fool questions' put to them.

The poor children would need to have the wisdom of the 'gods' to make a 'pass mark' under fair and ordinary conditions; but, considering the abnormally high temperature of last week when the examinations were on, would it not be a just and gracious act if the department would grant some special concession to all students making any fair average, and who passed through the ordeal without suffering physical collapse?

Let the parents of the school children of this country insist most emphatically that this system of retardedness to the children, must after this year, come forever. A teacher's certificate of efficiency for the school term should be quite sufficient for the grading of any pupil under our common school system.

S. P. C.
Dartmouth, N. S.

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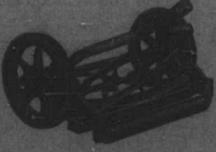
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