

POOR DOCUMENT MAY 23 1921

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 23, 1921.

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A CANDID FRIEND.

Mayor Church of Toronto is a good Conservative. He has stood by the party and labored for its success. Now, however, he proclaims his dissatisfaction with existing conditions. He does not like the term "Liberal and Conservative." The old title of Liberal-Conservative is good enough for him.

"Why?" he asks in a recent letter to Mr. Thomas Porter, M. P.—"Why should the old Liberal-Conservative party be scrapped for the sake of five or six Liberals now with the cabinet, who should go back to their own party and not aid in wrecking the Liberal-Conservative party, which has done so much for the country?"

Mayor Church modestly observes that he believes he knows something about public opinion in the Toronto district, and asserts that the people are not satisfied. They have a warm feeling of regard for Premier Meighen, but feel that "all is not going well with the party." He says further:

"The Union Government was only formed for the period of the war. I hope, however, they will live out their term of office, as no one wants an election at present. In these days of stress and strain, it is plainly visible to the rank and file that the Liberal opposition are going to link up in the next general election with the Agrarians, and with a Liberal administration in all the provinces and a solid Quebec, I feel that the Conservatives will get the worst of it, and that Canada will have a group government, as in Ontario. The present Union arrangement should only last until the general election, when you should go back to the party system. It is better to do it now than wait until you are beaten at the polls at a general election later."

Mayor Church declares that the Conservative party in Ontario has been badly led in federal matters, and that "the stupid blundering and folly of our Conservative leaders at Ottawa from Ontario was responsible for the rout of the Heaton Government and the wrecking of the Conservative party in Ontario."

In conclusion he says:

"The Ottawa leaders listen when here to the flattery of some, but when the election is over they will know something different, unless a change is made and we go back to the old party system."

The significant fact about this letter is that it has been given to the press. Mayor Church is not content with merely writing it to a member of parliament. He sees a danger and wants to warn it off. Unless something is done, the Conservatives will get the worst of it. There are many in Canada who will agree with Mayor Church.

POLAND AND SILESIA.

The New York Times recently printed a letter written by Mr. John H. Finley, former commissioner of education for the state of New York, who is in Europe, and wrote from Warsaw, concerning the matter of Upper Silesia. Mr. Finley presented the case from the standpoint of the Poles, who declare the Allies gave them the worst of it in their trouble with the Czechs and Ukrainians, in the matter of Danzig, and in the Kiel affair in which they took the offensive against the Bolsheviks. Remembering the old partition of Poland, they are suspicious, and now fear that they will not get justice in the partition of Upper Silesia. After stating the case fully from the Polish standpoint, however, Mr. Finley says:

"It is obvious to any outsider, of course, that the Poles in Silesia should have awaited the decision of the Allies, and then made a protest if it seemed unfair. They have acted imprudently and foolishly in the tenseness of their waiting and the ardor of their passion for Poland. As a result there exists one of the most dangerous situations in Europe today."

Of Korfanty, who is the head and front of the Polish offensive in Silesia, we are told:

"Adolf Korfanty, leader of the Upper Silesian Poles, is a native of Upper Silesia. He was a coal miner in early life, and later served in the German Reichstag and Prussian parliament (1908-1918), and during the past year has served as the Polish plebiscite commissioner. He rules his people with an iron hand, but is worshipped by them."

In discussing this question of Upper Silesia it must be remembered that under the Treaty of Versailles the fate of that region is to be determined by the Supreme Council. It decided upon a plebiscite, and the plebiscite has been taken. In taking up arms against the decision of the Supreme Council the Poles in Silesia flouted the Treaty of Versailles, from which Poland draws her existence. She must respect that Treaty, for, as the New York Evening Post points out:

"Any other solution will leave the peace of Europe at the mercy of the patriotic direct actionists. And that is not a condition which the Allies, and least of all France, can contemplate with satisfaction. In all of dismembered Central Europe the raw materials for trouble lie piled up. After D'Annunzio, Finme, Zeligowski in Vilna, and Italy in Silesia, imitations may come among the Hungarians under anian rule, among the Germans of Silesia, in the Tyrol. It is at which two sides can play; if ways successfully, at least to the ton of the Continent. The issue

is a simple one. The fate of Upper Silesia, according to the Treaty, must be decided by the Supreme Council on the basis of the recent plebiscite. Polish activity has violated the Treaty in that respect. And it is for Poland's best interests that the original situation be restored. Otherwise she questions the Treaty, which is her own charter of nationality, and she sacrifices the symphonies of the outside world, which she needs badly enough in working out the tremendously difficult problems of her national restoration."

It now transpires that Mr. J. W. V. Lawlor was the writer of the letter to Premier Meighen regarding Mr. Veniot's possible entrance into the federal cabinet. Mr. Lawlor wrote and the premier replied, saying he would discuss the matter with Mr. Wignam, and adding: "I have had no intimation from the party to whom you refer as to his attitude toward the government or toward the paramount federal issues of the day." The premier has since said that he had never heard of Mr. Lawlor, and he naturally would not write at great length. What he wanted was Mr. Veniot's assurance that "his attitude toward the government" was all right. Presumably if that assurance had been given the negotiations would have proceeded. Mr. Veniot, however, was not of that mind. He was polite to Mr. Lawlor, drew him out on the subject, and then gave his answer. Mr. Lawlor is grieved, Mr. Meighen is shocked, and the Standard is on the verge of convulsions. And there you are.

New York Evening Post. "The case to be laid before the Polish government, and before that part of the French people which insists upon a strong Poland as a safeguard against Germany, is simple. Poland will not be made stronger by the seizure of the Silesian coal fields, by the violation of the moral sentiment of the world, by the alienation of those outside sympathies which Poland needs if she is to survive. Out of a dismembered people the Poles have emerged today a state nearly 150,000 square miles and a population of 30,000,000. Poland is the sixth state in Europe, both in size and population, and that is a sufficient basis to build a strong national life. For her own future, and as an ally of France, Poland has sufficient material resources to settle down to peace and prosperity. She has infinitely more to lose than to gain by constituting herself the trouble maker in the heart of Europe."

It is announced that the bids for highway construction, recently opened at Augusta, Maine, show that the highway operations of the state this year will be performed at a much less cost than last year, perhaps some 25 per cent. "Two factors," says the Bangor Commercial, "that have a definite part in the lessened cost of construction are the lowered price of materials and the belief of the contractors that labor costs will be much less. There is plenty of labor and the contractors believe that it will be much more efficient than last year because of the anxiety of the men to hold their jobs. And more efficient labor means better highways."

The Calgary Albertan thus describes Col. Nelson Spencer, the Conservative candidate in Medicine Hat: "He has an admiration for big business, is always on the side of big capital, firmly believes that the future of the country depends on the paupering of capital, which if encouraged can by itself save the situation. He has no sympathy with progressive measures coming from any source—Liberal, Farmer or Labor. He is a protectionist in theory and practice. He is an out-and-out Conservative, and in most respects an out-and-out Tory."

Toronto Globe: "Building, \$9,000—contents, half a million." The Dominion government kept huge quantities of military stores on the Garrison Common in this city in a highly inflammable wooden storehouse. Stores and warehouse were both destroyed, probably by a chance spark from a passing locomotive. Ottawa is given to many varieties of folly, but surely the keeping of the country's military supplies in wooden sheds is not a general practice.

There will be something doing in street railway circles immediately. The company proposes a radical change.

POST OFFICE ITEMS.

St. John, N. B., May 23, 1921. Editor Times: Sir—The post office will adopt daylight saving service from Monday, 23rd instant—so far as general delivery, money order and foreign exchange offices and registration branch offices are concerned. Mails are obliged to be worked with the railway service—on end time—including letter carriers' delivery. The 24th of May, being Victoria Day, will be observed the same as on last Monday, a holiday.

General delivery open for one hour in the morning—9.00 to 10.00 a. m., and from 7.00 to 7.30 p. m.

No foot collections from letter boxes, but will be collected by team as usual. Registration window open same hours as the general delivery.

Money order and foreign exchange offices will not open, nor will there be a carriers' service.

EDWARD SEARS, Postmaster.

THE POETICAL PATCH QUILT.

(Anonymous.) I only know she came and went.

Like troublets in a pool—Hood
She was a phantom of delight—
—Woodsworth.

And I was like a fool—Eastman.
"One kiss, dear maid," I said, and sigh—
—Coleridge.

"Out of those lips unshorn."
—Longfellow.
She shook her ringlets round her head—
—Stoddard.

And laughed in merry scorn.
—Tennyson.

Ring out ye bells to the wild sky,
—Tennyson.
You hear them, O my heart!

"Tis twelve at night by the castle clock—
—Coleridge.
Beloved, we must part—Alice Cary.

"Come back, come back!" she cried in grief—
—Campbell.
My eyes are dim with tears—

—Bayard Taylor.
How shall I live through all the days,
—Dagood.
All through a hundred years—

—T. S. Perry.
'Twas in the prime of summer time—
—Hood.

She blest me with her hand—Hort.
We stayed together, deeply blest—
—Mrs. Edwards.

In the Dreaming Land—Cornwall.
The laughing bridal roses blow—
—Palmore.

To dress her dark-brown hair—
—Bayard Taylor.
No maiden may with her compare—
—Brailsford.

Most beautiful, most rare—Head.
I clasped it on her sweet, cold hand,
—Browning.

The precious golden link—Smith.
I calmed her fears and she was calm—
—Wordsworth.

"Drink, pretty creature, drink!"
—Wordsworth.
And so I won my Genevieve,
—Coleridge.

And walked in Paradise—Hervey.
The fairest thing that ever grew
—Wordsworth.
Atween me and the skies—Dagood.

MANY PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAY

Tomorrow will see the usual exodus to the country in celebration of Victoria Day, the first holiday of the summer season. There will be excursions by both train and boat and many are planning to escape from the city and seek a change of scenery in many of the beautiful spots near the city.

The city itself is not devoid of amusement attractions, for those who cannot get away. The movies and vaudeville programs will doubtless be enjoyed by many, and the parks, too, will have a large patronage. Seaside Park now being in full bloom is a new management. The umpire's familiar "play ball" will be heard on St. Peter's Y. M. A. grounds at 2.30 p. m., opening a game between the Commercial Club and St. Peter's. These two teams will also stage a game on the East End grounds, at 7.30 p. m. The Senior League. The Intermediate League will open tonight at 7.15 p. m. on the East End diamond, with a game between St. George's A. C. and St. Louis A. C. The City Intermediate League season will open with a meeting between the Y. M. H. A. and St. Peter's Intermediate, tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

In the St. John Soccer League, the Millary F. C. and the C. A. C. will meet on the Shamrock grounds tonight. Mayor Schofield will act as host to those members of the South End Boys' Club who can on their honor that they have not smoked a cigarette since he made the offer of giving them an Imperial Theatre party.

In the Imperial at 4 o'clock there will be the Red Cross concert, open to every child between four and eight years who makes application. The concert will not be left out in the cold, as events have been announced for Mossop Park. A party of local men will spend the holiday in Amherst, where a reunion of the 6th C. M. B. will take place. Postmaster Sears announced that Victoria Day will be observed as a holiday by his staff the same as last year. General delivery will be open for one hour in the morning, from 8 o'clock to 9, and in the evening from 6 to 7 o'clock. No collections will be made from street boxes during the day. The registration window will open the same hour as the general delivery. The money order and foreign exchange office will not open.

The Y. M. C. L. baseball team is leaving today to play the St. Joseph's University nine tomorrow. The championship Y. M. C. L. Junior basketball team also is going to Moncton to play a team of juniors from the college. Tomorrow is a big day at St. Joseph's. In the morning there is an athletic meet scheduled. This will be followed later in the day by the baseball and basketball games and a band concert in the college park. In the evening the dramatic club of the university will present the drama "Recognition."

EMPIRE DAY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empire Day was fittingly observed in all the public schools today with programmes consisting of addresses, essays, recitations, etc. The programme for the High School was as follows: High school orchestra; essay, "The British Merchant Marine," William Lowe; recitation, "The Ships of Grey St. John," Margaret Brown; saxophone solo, Samuel Green; essay, "Canada's Dred in the War," John Bond; solo, Olive Rankine; recitation, "What Has England Done," Hilma Fairbank; physical exercises, class of girls; addresses, Rev. F. H. Bone and Mayor Schofield; orchestra recitation and flag salutation.

RAILROADS MUST REDUCE EXPENSES

Washington, May 23.—Railroads must make sharp reductions in their operating expenses if their credit and financial stability are to be re-established, a committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States which has made a survey of the transportation question, declared last night. "It is recognized by the railroads," the committee report continued, "that rates and fares cannot be lowered without a corresponding reduction in expenses."

MEIGHEN WROTE TO J. W. V. LAWLOR RE MR. VENIOT

Mr. Lawlor Publishes the Meighen Letter and Tells His Version of Negotiations

A letter from J. W. V. Lawlor of this city appeared in the Globe on Saturday. In the course of it Mr. Lawlor said:

On Nov. 29 last I wrote Honorable Premier Meighen and suggested wisdom of giving French-Canadians of the maritime provinces representation in the federal cabinet. As a citizen I had a perfect right to do so, and neither told any person nor showed my letter nor its contents to any one. It was a purely personal matter. In reply I received the following perfectly harmless letter:

Dear Mr. Lawlor—You have received your letter of Nov. 29. I will discuss the subject to which you call attention with Mr. Wignam. I have had no intimation whatever from the party to whom you refer as to his attitude towards the government or towards the paramount federal issues of the day.

(Signed) ARTHUR MEIGHEN.
J. W. V. Lawlor, Esq., P. O. Box 656, St. John, N. B.

That is the letter which Honorable Mr. Veniot is trying to make the public believe is an invitation to him from Premier Meighen to become a member of his cabinet. After receipt of that letter I had a conversation with a gentleman well known to Acadians and who takes a deep interest in their welfare, and we discussed the Acadian representation and Mr. Veniot quite fully, and in parting he urged me "to see Mr. Veniot at once." As he was a supporter and close friend of Hon. Mr. Veniot I followed his advice and wrote Hon. Mr. Veniot asking what day he would be in St. John or Fredericton, as I wished to speak of a personal matter. Before his reply reached me at St. John a business matter called me to Bathurst (N. B.), where I worked about three months.

Meeting Hon. Mr. Veniot there we went to my room at the hotel and I explained my conversation with our mutual friend in St. John and his request "to see Mr. Veniot at once." I made my position perfectly clear that I had no authority from anyone to even discuss with him or anyone else an Acadian cabinet representation, but that, on my own behalf and because our mutual friend so requested me to see him at once, I wanted to know if Acadian representation in federal cabinet became a live issue and if he got the chance, accept, would he permit I warned him that I was Conservative and he Liberal, but that the conversation was strictly private and confidential, and he agreed to so treat anything that passed between us.

Now that Hon. Mr. Veniot has seen fit to attempt to make political capital out of that "private and confidential conversation," and as Hon. Mr. Meighen, being wrongly accused, I feel bound to give my version.

Hon. Mr. Veniot discussed the matter with me for about an hour. He did not resent the suggestion of joining Meighen's government if he got the chance. On the contrary, he seemed quite pleased and discussed possibility of being re-elected in Gloucester, mentioning that "I am sure we have to have senatorship to make the vacancy," to which I replied that the custom of all political parties was to provide for interests of any private member who vacated his seat to make safe riding for a cabinet minister. I explained to him mentioned his name in my letter to the premier as one of the prominent Acadians of the maritime provinces, and it was regarding "his attitude towards the government or towards the paramount federal issues of the day," that the premier "had no intimation." So that he might know that I had actually written the premier suggesting cabinet representation for Acadians, I showed him letter from Premier Meighen as quoted above. We discussed the fact that during Laurier's eighteen years in government the Acadians had not received that recognition to which they were entitled, also their great increase in numbers and advancement in every way. He also discussed the formation of Union government and he went into details, regarding the entry of those gentlemen into the cabinet, and he seemed to be pleased with the idea and a conclusion said he would think it over, and as I was going to be in Bathurst some days, he would give me an answer after a few days.

I returned to St. John Dec. 23 and before leaving Bathurst saw Hon. Mr. Meighen, who reported he would have more time to decide as his friend had not yet come to Bathurst, and he had not been able to see the other gentlemen. Again, mind you, no refusal, but simply was giving matter consideration, and would advise me later. About Jan. 8 I wrote him asking if he had decided the matter he had discussed and in reply received a largely political harangue, written evidently with the intention of some day publishing it for effect.

With these facts before you can you readily see why Mr. Lawlor's attitude in inquiry, why Hon. Mr. Veniot on May 8 said to a reporter, "I will not deny that such an offer was made." He might also have added "he would not deny" that he was asked to be King of England or President of the United States. The above is the result of "strictly private and confidential" conversations and you and the public can form your opinion as to how Hon. Mr. Meighen came to make that "inquiry" in the house at Ottawa, evidently with the intention of turning a certain vote in York-Sunbury from the government candidate.

SHIPPING

I would call attention to the fact that it took Hon. Mr. Veniot a month to make up his mind that he would decline a certain thing if it ever happened, which surely is good proof that acceptance appealed very strongly to him and one might almost infer that it was those friends whom he expected to see after Christmas who decided on the answer he wrote Jan. 8.

Thanking you for space.

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