

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1912.

COURTENAY BAY IMPROVEMENTS.

The green-eyed monster of envy and despair has taken up a permanent abode in the Times office. Day after day, for some weeks past, the Times has been printing short paragraphs intimating that Mr. Hazen would not be able to put the Courtenay Bay development scheme into practical operation. The object of these paragraphs was not the furtherance of Courtenay Bay development, but to injure Mr. Hazen politically in this community. Mr. Pugsley had completely failed to convince the Laurier Administration that Courtenay Bay improvements should be carried forward to completion. From beginning to end there was a lack of good faith on the part of Mr. Pugsley in dealing with the people of St. John regarding this important work. He humbugged them with promises for three years and then told them when he was fighting for his life and his political future, that he had the money to go on with this work, when within three weeks the Government of which he was a member stood it aside because of its magnitude. Whatever Mr. Pugsley's intentions may have been regarding Courtenay Bay, his performances were limited to having borings made to prove that the basin could be utilized as a harbor and to advertising for tenders for the improvements planned by the Public Works Department at Ottawa. It is noticeable that Mr. Pugsley's anxiety for the development of Courtenay Bay was only when an election was pending. After the election of 1908, Mr. Pugsley forgot all about Courtenay Bay and his promises in connection therewith, and there is strong presumptive evidence that even had the Laurier Government not been defeated "the magnitude of the work" would have prevented the development of Courtenay Bay until another election was pending.

Those who know anything of the history of the Inter-colonial Railway will be amused at the claim put forward by the Times on behalf of Mr. Pugsley that the utilization of Courtenay Bay as a harbor originated with the ex-Minister of Public Works. The question was discussed more than half a century ago, when the Government of New Brunswick was about undertaking the construction of the eastern extension of the European and North American Railway, as it was the intention of the Government of the day to locate the deep water terminus of this railway at Courtenay Bay. All that Mr. Pugsley has done was to take advantage of a very old idea and to use it for all it was worth for election purposes, leaving to others the responsibility of putting the idea into practical operation. The reason for alluding to these things at the present time is merely to furnish conclusive evidence of what had already been printed in The Standard, that it would make no difference whatever whether Mr. Pugsley was defeated or elected. So far as the Courtenay Bay improvements were concerned results have proved the correctness of the statements made by The Standard during the campaign. Mr. Pugsley was not defeated, but the Government of which he was a member was; notwithstanding this the Courtenay Bay improvements are to go ahead, and that without delay, and also on a somewhat larger plan than that proposed by Mr. Pugsley; for the changes in the specifications are much greater than the Times would have it appear, and will add materially to the accommodations and safety of the new harbor.

The news that the Government at Ottawa had not only awarded the contract but had received the assent of the Governor General to their act, was received in St. John with profound satisfaction. Everyone recognizes the importance of this action on the part of the Government and its far-reaching consequences to St. John and the whole Province of New Brunswick. The attempt of the Times to make it appear that the determination of the Government to go on with the work had some connection with provincial politics is laughed at, as it is everywhere admitted that the local opposition are finding difficulty to secure men willing to sacrifice themselves for their party at the next provincial elections.

THE SCOPE OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

In what way will the work of the Tariff Commission, which is to be shortly appointed by the Borden Government, benefit the average citizen? What benefit, for example, will the producer, the consumer, and the industrial worker derive from this new departure in policy by a Dominion Government—the appointment of a permanent board to investigate and report on the Tariff? These questions are very pertinent in view of the importance of the bill introduced by the Borden Government and were ably dealt with and answered by Mr. Ames, Conservative member for the St. Antoine Division, Montreal, during the debate on the second reading.

Let us consider first the producer, the man who asks Parliament that he be given a certain degree of protection in the shape of a duty upon that which he has to sell. If he can prove that he is entitled to that protection he will receive it, but if he cannot prove his case he will probably find that the protection he enjoys will be diminished. Hitherto there has been no satisfactory method known to Parliament by which the actual facts in a case of this kind could be ascertained. The Tariff Commission will supply the deficiency.

The duties of the Commission as they affect the producer are thus defined in the bill:

- Section 4.—"In respect of goods produced in or imported into Canada the Commission shall, under the direction of the Minister, make enquiry as to—
- (a) the price and cost of raw materials in Canada and elsewhere, and the cost of transportation thereof from the place of production to the place of use or consumption;
 - (b) the cost of production in Canada and elsewhere;
 - (c) the cost of transportation from the place of production to the place of use or consumption, whether in Canada or elsewhere;
 - (d) the cost, efficiency and conditions of labor in Canada and elsewhere;
 - (e) the prices received by producers, manufacturers, wholesale dealers, retailers, and other distributors in Canada and elsewhere;
 - (f) all conditions and factors which affect or enter into the cost of production and the price to the consumer in Canada;
 - (g) generally, all the conditions affecting production, manufacture, cost and price in Canada as compared with other countries.
- It will be noted the Commission is authorized to make enquiry in respect of "goods," in the interpretation

clause of the bill the term "goods" has a very wide application. They include products of the farm, horses, cattle and other animals and everything that the farmer produces, as much as the wares and merchandise of the manufacturer. So that the farmer, equally with the man who runs the factory, will secure the benefits that will accrue under this act.

Now take the consumer. The definition Mr. Ames gave to the term "consumer" is worth quoting. "I mean," he said, "the class of consumer who is a broad enough and 'big enough Canadian to live and let live. I do not mean the class of consumer who insists upon having everything he produces protected and everything he consumes free. I do not mean that class, they are not in the majority in Canada today and I hope they never will be. But I refer to the consumer who is a big enough and 'big enough Canadian to say: 'I am willing that what I consume shall be, to a slight extent, increased in price in order that there may be built up throughout the length and breadth of Canada a diversified industry, and in order that the Canadian people may not be reduced to the position of hewers of wood and drawers of water.'"

Consumers are naturally the largest class that will benefit under the provisions of the bill, including in some degree every man and woman in Canada. Taking it from the consumer's standpoint, the Tariff Commission will ascertain what is the selling price of the manufacturer, the selling price of the wholesaler or middleman, and the selling price of the retail merchant, in order to see whether in its successive stages the commodity is so enhanced in price that it reaches the ultimate consumer at a price that is not fair to him.

Take the case of a combine in restraint of trade; if the price of some article has been unduly enhanced to the consumer it will be the duty of the Tariff Commission to investigate and report. If it should be alleged that there are secret agreements between producers which advance the price beyond what is legitimate, or that an industry is endeavoring to pay dividends on watered stock, and on account of which it is attempting to obtain a higher price from the consumer, an enquiry will come within the scope of the Commission. Cases of excessive charges, of discrimination, of rebates in railway rates, in fact any circumstance or condition which may unduly enhance the price of an article, eventually, to the consumer, can be studied and reported upon by the Commission. Consumers generally will not be slow to realize the advantage of an impartial board to investigate matters of this kind, and it is just such a Commission that it is the intention of the Government to appoint.

And lastly, the bill should commend itself to the industrial worker, who is both producer and consumer. The industrial worker probably pays a little more for what he consumes, but he is protected in what he produces in the industrial establishments of the country. The bill provides for the industrial worker a means by which an investigation can be made as to whether he is securing a just and fair proportion of the selling price of that to which his labor has contributed. One of the great problems of this country is to obtain a standard of living for industrial workers that is in keeping with the Canadian standard of civilization. Nations competing in our home markets have a lower standard of living than is desirable in Canada. It is of the first importance to know what it costs the workman in Canada to live, what wages he is making and whether he is getting a fair share in the cost of the manufactured articles. If the Tariff Commission fulfills the purpose for which it is intended by the Government these things will be noted and recorded to the future benefit of the workman.

Much of what has been referred to in this brief review of the scope of the Tariff Commission was dealt with at length by Mr. Ames in his speech on the second reading of the bill which passed last week by a vote of 104 to 52. The member for the St. Antoine Division of Montreal is one of the recognized authorities in the House of Commons on tariff questions. It therefore occasions no surprise that the Opposition failed to answer the weighty arguments he advanced in favor of the bill.

Not the least effective part of Mr. Ames' address was his closing reference to some of the things this Commission will not do. It affords a complete answer to many of the wild and unreasonable arguments advanced by Liberal speakers. "This Commission," said Mr. Ames, "will be charged to investigate facts and conditions. They will not take on themselves the duties of ministers or of this Parliament. They are not going to prepare any Tariff Act. They will not make any recommendation such as that such an article shall pay 25 or 30 per cent. That will not be their duty. Every prerogative enjoyed by the ministers and members of this House rests unimpaired when this act passes. We shall be called upon to exercise our judgment and best faculties in determining what shall be the tariff duties just as before. The only difference will be that we shall no longer be groping our way in the dark."

THAT \$10,000,000 BLUNDER.

The only defence that has been discovered so far in an attempt to excuse the Laurier Government for the blunder which is costing this country more than \$10,000,000 in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific agreement, is an announcement by a Liberal organ that the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was "frankish." The situation is bad enough as it is, the Toronto World points out, and will not be improved by inaccurate statements.

The opinion of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has been published and the finding is not so involved in legal phraseology that it cannot be readily understood. The contention of the Laurier Government, that the discrepancy between the market value and the par value of the bonds was to be compensated by the company issuing additional bonds, fell to pieces when it confronted the Supreme Appellate Court because, as Lord McNaughton pointed out, no authority had been given by Parliament to the company to issue additional bonds and thus increase the total capitalization.

It is astonishing, rather, to find that the Supreme Court of Canada missed the point which the Privy Council took when it decided the case against the late Government.

Current Comment

(Montreal Herald.)
Three bombshells were thrown at a Chinese general in Mukden, but without damage to the general. What the Chinese need is a national course in baseball.

(Saskatoon Capital.)
A grandfather who left a fortune out of rendering fat may not have been a creditable ancestor to his descendants, but he was a mighty useful one to them.

(Vancouver World.)
As a contemporary justly remarked: "Raising vegetables like those pictured in the catalogue is a secret of the printer's art."

(Toronto Star.)
When a question like that of the marriage law arises, there is commonly a wealth of opinion and a poverty of information.

(Saskatoon Capital.)
A Western bishop says that men are too modest. Where did he get acquainted with William Lyon Mackenzie King?

What Followed a Cut

A Magistrate's Wonderful Experience With Zam-Buk.

Mr. J. E. Arsenault, a Justice of the Peace, and station master at Wellington, on the Prince Edward Island Ry., has had a wonderful proof of the healing power of Zam-Buk. He says: "Four years ago I had an accident. I slipped in the station and fell on a freight truck, sustaining a bad cut on the front of my leg. I thought this would heal, but instead of doing so it developed into a bad ulcer and later into a form of eczema which spread very rapidly and also started on the other leg. Both legs became so swollen and sore that I could only go about my work by having them bandaged. My doctor said I must stop work and lay up."

"After six months of this trouble I consulted another doctor, but with no better results. I tried all the salves, ointments and lotions I heard of, but instead of getting better I got worse. This was my condition when I got my first box of Zam-Buk. Greatly to my delight the first box gave me relief. I continued to apply it to the sores, and day by day they got better. I could see that at last I had got hold of something which would cure me, and in the end it did."

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BARRISTERS' SOCIETY IN ANNUAL SESSION

Stenographers for County Court—Judiciary Act Discussed—Society Reports Show Successful Year.

Fredericton, Feb. 14.—The annual meeting of the New Brunswick's Barristers' Society was held last evening in the Supreme Court rooms, President R. W. Hewson, occupied the chair and there was a fair attendance of the legal profession present, including Dr. T. C. Allen, K. C., J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., M. G. Teed, K. C., A. R. Slipp, K. C., A. B. Connell, K. C., J. D. Phinney, K. C., H. G. Fenety, P. A. Guthrie, R. B. Hanson, P. J. Hughes, F. St. John Bliss, J. W. McCready, W. A. Trueman, W. H. Harrison and A. T. LeBlanc. The annual report was presented by the secretary, Registrar Allan, which showed the society to be in a sound financial condition, there being a balance on hand of over \$1,000. It was decided to increase the insurance on the library from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and it was also decided to have an up-to-date catalogue made of all the books. The question of having stenographers for the County Court was before the meeting. Progress was reported as it is thought that at the next session of the legislature the bill will be ready providing for the stenographers for the County Court. Judge Bliss, secretary of the York County Municipalities, said that the County Council had expressed an opinion strongly in favor of having the necessary stenographers appointed, and it was the general impression at the meeting that the other counties were of the same opinion. Messrs. Baxter, Teed, Phinney and Registrar Allen were selected as a committee by the chairman to get the opinion of the profession in respect to any amendments or changes which might be recommended to the legislature respecting the Judiciary Act. Mr. Phinney expressed an opinion that the provision in the section whereby a judge could not sit on an appeal from a case tried before him was not satisfactory, and that the old law by which the judge sat on appeal was the better. Mr. Teed, K. C., did not agree with Mr. Phinney's view of the matter, and Mr. Phinney said that he had no feeling in the matter, he only wished to get the views of the society on the question. It was, however, decided that the committee appointed should deal with all questions of this kind. Mr. Phinney referred to the improvements which had been made in the registrar's office and moved that the society tender a vote of thanks of their appreciation to the commissioner of public works. Dr. Allen, K. C., spoke at some length on the same subject and told of the great convenience of the new improvements, not only to himself but to the other members of the legal profession. He said that the former attorney general, Hon. J. D. Hazen, deserved the thanks of the society, as the changes had resulted from recommendations he had made as attorney general. Mr. Phinney's resolution expressing the thanks of the society was changed so as to include Hon. Mr. Hazen, as well as the chief commissioner of public works. The society also discussed at some length the question of increased accommodations in the parliament buildings for the barristers. Dr. Allen and others said that the accommodations could not be provided at the present time, as the building was now fully occupied, but all expressed the feeling that the legislature had in view new buildings and that when this was brought about they would be able to secure better accommodations. The election of officers was held and the following were elected for the ensuing year: president, R. W. Hewson; vice president, J. B. M. Baxter; librarian and secretary treasurer, Dr. T. C. Allen; council, H. A. Powell, K. C., J. D. Phinney, K. C., M. G. Teed, K. C., A. B. Connell, K. C., J. Gregory, K. C., A. R. Slipp, K. C., and J. W. McCready.

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WEDDINGS

Splains Hatheway.

A wedding of much interest took place at four o'clock yesterday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Rowan, Magnawegonish Road, when Miss Jessa Hatheway, daughter of Mrs. Rowan, was united in marriage to John B. Splains, cashier in Messrs. T. McAvity and Sons Limited. The beautiful home had been tastefully decorated for the occasion and the rooms presented a most attractive appearance. The ceremony was performed by Rev. R. P. McKim, assisted by Canon C. H. Hatheway, of Albany, New York, uncle of the bride. Miss Hatheway, who was given away by Mr. Rowan, was becomingly gowned in white satin, trimmed with princess lace, and wore a bridal veil interwined with orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of white roses. Miss Jessa Hatheway, sister of the bride, and Miss Ethel Wilson acted as bridesmaids, and both wore becoming gowns of embroidered marquisette, with black picture hats to match, and carried shower bouquets of red carnations. H. S. Brennan and Charles S. Lee supported the groom. Following the ceremony a reception was held, at which the immediate relatives and intimate friends were present. The happy couple left last evening on a honeymoon trip to New York and Albany, returning in about three weeks they will take up their residence on Duke street. Both bride and groom are popular and have received many remembrances from friends.

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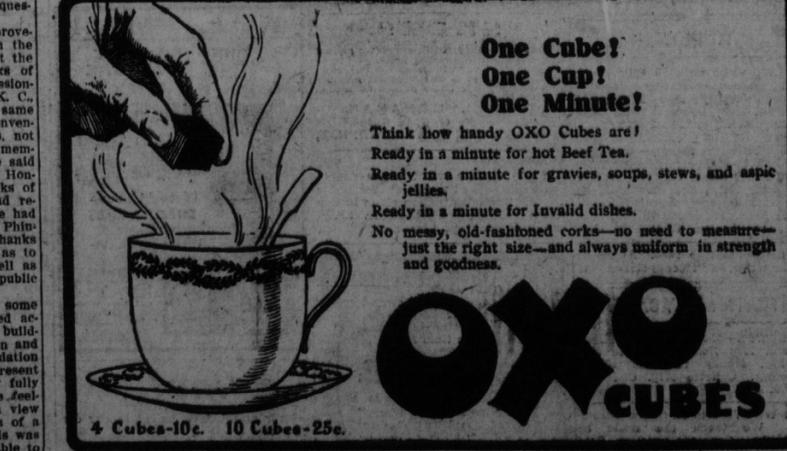
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