R. L. BORDEN ON CONSERVATIVE POLICY

(Continued From Page Two)

by my friend Mr. Aylesworth.

"Perhaps it is to that particular statement he is alluding when he is making wild statements in the province of Ontario as to certan condign punishment which is to come to me in the early future from some unknown source; perhaps I have misunderstood that gentleman, and it may be owing to these mistakes that he made that I am to be so punished some time in the future.

Senate Reform

"Well, I must defend myself as well as I can, because I really am at a loss to know which one of those planks I have stolen from the Liberal party, unless it might be the plank which called for a reform of the senate of Canada as not properly representing public thought in this country and as not discharging to the full the legislative duties imposed upon it by the fathers of Confederation. The Liberal party did promise senate reform. And since they have come into power they have made some good appointments, to the senate, I will not deny that, but they have treated the senate as a sort of refuge home or hospital for men who were absolutely useless anywhere else, and who were put there only as a reward for party service of a more or less meritorious character. (Applause.) Now, an editor in the Province of Ontario says if I had stolen any of these planks from the Liberals it was because they had thrown them outside, thrown them into the scrap-heap as it were, left them there covered with dirt and ice and snow and had failed absolutely to use any of them. That may be very truly said as to the plank of the senate reform, as far as that is concerned. Because the only reform that has been attempted or carried out with respect to the senate is the appointment of strong Liberal adherents to be members of that body. (Applause.) And when this question has been pressed upon the public platform they now say that the senate having a strong Liberal majority is thoroughly reformed and there is no further occasion for reform.

Other Promises

"And by one the excuse was made when it was pressed upon him that the Liberal party had not carried out its promise, had not given us prohibition, said, 'While we have not given you free trade as it is in England, that is certainly true, as we had promised, we have not given you prohibition as we promised if a plebiscite should be held and the results would be in favor—we have not given you free trade as it is in England, and prohibition as it is in Maine, but we have given you free trade as it is in Maine, and prohibition as it is in England. (Laughter and applause.)

Policy is Progressive

"Now, I dealt in Halifax with matters of a great deal of importance; and upon some of these I desire to say a few words. Some of the articles of faith I put forward at Halifax have been regarded by some people in this country, that is by some Conservatives of this country, as of rather too advanced or progressive character; and I want to say frankly to some Conservative friends throughout this country, that whilst the National Policy upon which Sir John McDonald carried this country in 1878 may have met the requirements of the country at that time, so far as they particularly required it, the Conservative party has always been progressing, has always had in its mind and before its eye the wants and needs of the people; and as the country progresses and as new conditions develop, the Conservative party is prepared to meet that progress, that development and those new conditions. So today, we stand in Canada, as we did before, for that National Policy which has wrought so much of good for the people of this country, and which our opponents after renouncing in every mood and tense and upon every public platform of this country for 18 years have not had the courage to put aside when they came to power. (Applause.)

Tribute to National Policy

"Conservatives throughout Canada have over and over again lauded the teachings of Sir John A. Macdonald, and the makers of the national policy; but no such tremendous compliment, no such tremendous praise was ever placed upon the memory of Sir John A. Macdonald, and upon that national policy of which he was the author, as the confidence the Liberal party had in it, when they came into power, after denouncing it for 18 years, they did not dare to lay unholy hands upon the principles upon which it was founded. (Applause.) They altered details, but they did not dare to depart from the principles. And for a good reason, because every prudent man knew that the departure from that principle would hurl them and their party from power as soon as the people of Canada had the opportunity to do that.

"Why, at the last session of parliament sat the minister of finance and the minister of customs, all those men freetraders as they have called themselves upon every public platform of this country, and expressly on protectionist ground defended item after item of the tariff, before the parliament and the people of this country. While the national policy was well enough in 1878 and it has been all well enough since, it will stand in good stead to the people of this country for the future.

Industrial Future

I know of no better principle to guide the people of Canada than this. While we must always be a great agricultural country, while from the enormous expanse of the prairies we must of necessity always have agriculture as one of the very first and foremost foundations of our national wealth, we know that in this country of ours we have the resources to make Canada not only a great agricultural, but a great industrial nation as well. Why, you have in this province of British Columbia in your minerals and your forests, you have the wealth of two or three of the nations of Europe. So far as natural resources are concerned it is not fitting that this country should always remain undeveloped, or that we should always remain purely agricultural. Well, we have sought to look beyond the conditions which surrounded Sir John A. Macdonald when he laid the foundations of the national policy, and we have looked to the progress and development of the country, and we arrived at certain conclusions.

Telegraphs and Telephones

"We made it one of the articles of faith which we professed to the people of this country as to the national system of telegraphs and telephones. That perhaps, so far as some shades of public opinion in this country are concerned, has elicited the most criticism. Let me point out to you in the first place that while we regard ourselves on this great continent as up-to-date, and are sometimes inclined to criticize the mother country as a little behind the times, in some respects Great Britain years ago made not only telegraphs, but telephones as well, a national monopoly, in just exactly the same way as the carriage of mails in Great Britain is a state monopoly. And when you come to look at the reason of the thing, why should it not be?

Mr. Gladstone's Views

"Mr. Gladstone in the house of commons, when defending the proposal that the telegraph system of Great Britain should be created and be operated by the state exactly in the same way as the carriage of the mails, said: 'There is no good argument for the carriage of mails as a state monopoly which was not an equally good argument for the formation of the telegraphs as a state monopoly.' And what is it after all? What is the object of the postal service in this or any other country? It is the transmission of intelligence from one man to another at a distance. What is the object of the telegraph? The transmission of intelligence by a more rapid and more speedy method. And what is the object of the telephone? The transmission of the intelligence by a more convenient method. Will you tell me there is any difference in the principle? You tell me these cannot be carried on by the people of this country through the state, although they are carried on upon business methods by private enterprises? I fail to see any good reason to the contrary.

By Independent Commission.

"I would not propose to carry on a system of national telegraph and telephones subject to that political control and interference which has wrought so much evil, and is working so much evil today to the state railways of this country. I would propose to have them operated as the work of the people of this country, the national works of the people of this, and not the works of a politician of this country. (Applause). Just as I say today the state railways of Canada, the Intercolonial and the Prince Edward Island railway, should be carried on through a commission; so that they shall be in future the railways of the people of Canada, and not the railways of the politicians of Canada. (Applause).

Canada's Telegraph System.

"Well, you have in Canada today, what? You have nearly twenty thousand miles of telegraph line. Where is that telegraph? In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the Island of Breton, on the north shore of this province, extending up to the Yukon, in those portions of the country where private enterprise would not receive any adequate return from the telegraph line. If it is a good thing for the people of Canada to operate those lines in those portions of Canada, why wouldn't it be better policy for the people of Canada, where the money invested will yield a return to the people of Canada? So that we have no hesitation in giving to the people of Canada the proposition I had alluded to.

Transportation and Ports.

"Then, let me speak of another great subject, transportation and the equipment of our ports, and cold storage. There is no subject which is of more vital importance than the vast question of transportation and the equipment of our national ports and the other item I have alluded to. Why do I say that? Transportation is important to any country. It is important to the great republic to the south of us. The people of that great republic are our competitors in the British market. Our market is in the great motherland, whose flag will always wave over this great country of ours. (Applause). That is where we get our market—and in the great republic to the south of us for the most part we find our competitors. Well, the question of transportation is important to Canada for the reason that this country with all its enormous resources has but a sparse population, separated in many places into separate communities, and our commodities must be carried a long distance, whether the market be at home or abroad. The problem begins and ends with the market at home or abroad. Now in the United States the ports are well and thoroughly equipped, at least great many of their national ports are. And I have been astonished to learn of the development which is going on in some of the rich ports of the United States.

For National Ports.

"In Canada we have at the Atlantic and upon the Pacific as well, ports which may be truly regarded as great national ports. And I believe that no public money would be better invested and expended than in the thorough equipment of these ports by modern and up-to-date methods and modern and up-to-date equipments. The Conservative party took this stand in 1903 and 1904 in parliament, and in the article which I laid down in Halifax,—and in that regard I am only repeating what I said at that time, and what we are prepared to carry out when we come into power.

Public Utilities

"Now just one more word on another subject—that is, the control of public utilities. I mentioned to you a little while ago the circumstances that the modern highway of commerce is the modern railway. That is the true highway, and I have pointed out to you that the modern railway and other public utilities have been handed over for the most part in this country to the control of private corporations.

"We have in Canada today 19,000 miles of railway. If the Conservative party had been returned in 1904 we would have had a good deal more than that today, and some of it would have been within the limits of your own fair province.

"But let us pass that by. There are in Canada today some 19,000 or 20,000 miles of railway owned and operated by private enterprise. I say we should have in this country a public utilities commission, vested with the widest possible power to stand as a safeguard for the people of the country on the one hand as against corporative greed and oppression and as a safeguard against unjust legislation. We must not in Canada have any legislation which will create the suspicion that invested capital is not being treated freely, because Canada, for many years to come must remain a borrowing country, and there must be no suspicion of any breach of faith or public honor in that regard.

Favors Commission

"Well, what has been done? I give credit to the present administration for having brought in an act to establish a railway commission. When it was introduced in the house of commons I stood up in my place and approved of it. And I pledged my humble aid to making it as good an act as possible. It was amended in a great many ways before it was passed. Since then—at the instance of men sitting on our side of the house—it has been amended in various ways, so as to include express companies and telephone companies. And I say that it should be known as the public utilities commission of Canada. Its jurisdiction should be extended; its personnel should be increased, in order that there shall be no delay, because this tribunal is today the most important judicial tribunal that Canada possesses.

"I believe it should be divided in two branches—one invested with judicial powers and the other invested with duties of semi-judicial nature, and in that way we, in this country, would be in a position to know that there is every possible precaution being taken for the safety of the traveling public and the employees. And that proper rates and accommodation were being given to the public.

Competition Talk

"There is an impression that keener competition will give better rates and better accommodation. My experience [illegible] that the competition of two railway companies relieves the public very little. As a matter of fact, it sometimes increases the burden, because in that event you find that two great corporations, operating two railways where one could do the work are run at a greater cost. And operating two railways where one only is necessary means the expense must come out of the pockets of the benevolent philanthropists who are at the head of the enterprise. The people in the end must pay for the railway accommodation, and competition does not always effect the parties for whom it was intended.

Provincial Rights

"I would like to say a few words about provincial rights. There has been a disposition since the Liberal party came into power to interfere with provincial rights, and the Conservative party takes the ground that the provinces of Canada, acting within the sphere of the jurisdiction which is conferred upon them under the constitution should be left to carry out their work of self-government (which has been conferred upon them by the constitution).

"One of the principles laid down in my Halifax speech was the unimpaired maintenance of all powers of self-government which had been conferred upon the provinces of Canada under the constitution.

"In the days of Blake and Mowat the Liberal party posed as the defender and champion of provincial rights. The Liberal majority in parliament is ready at the call of its friends to declare any work whatever to be for 'the general advantage of Canada' in order that parliament may have jurisdiction. So flagrantly have these demands come that even the Liberal press of Ontario have begun to resent them.

"At Petawawa in Ontario, and at Kalen island in this province, some object lessons have been presented to the people of Canada clearly indicating that the federal executive is not unwilling to use its powers to the detriment of those provinces which have the audacity to place at the head of affairs a Conservative administration. To such an extent has federal interference been improperly carried that the prime minister of Canada, and not the lieutenant-governor, selected the first premier of Saskatchewan. The office of lieutenant-governor is an honorable and independent office, the occupant of which is invested under our constitution with independent powers and duties, the exercise of which ought never to be interfered with by federal authority or influence. Yet, in the instance to which I allude, Mr. Haultain was passed over and Mr. Scott was selected at the dictation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and not by the choice of the lieutenant-governor. This was abundantly proved in parliament by the production of Mr. Scott's letter, the authenticity of which has never been denied. Mr. Haultain had served our western territory as prime minister for upwards of fifteen years. During that time he had not acted the role of a partizan, though his sympathies were entirely Conservative. His administration had been progressive, his character as a public man stainless, and he thoroughly enjoyed the confidence of the people. Yet he was unjustly passed over through the unwarrantable and unconstitutional action of the prime minister, because on a great public question he was not in accord with that gentleman's views.

Asiatic Question

"Now I come to the question which has been alluded to by my friend Mr. McBride, a question of some considerable importance to the whole future of Canada, and it is a question which so far as I am concerned, interests the people of the East of Canada just as much as it interests the people in the Western part of Canada, the people of this great Pacific province. I refer to the question of immigration. I might just read an announcement of our policy which I made at Halifax:

"A more careful selection of the sources from which immigration shall be sought, a more rigid inspection of immigrants and the abolition of the bonus system except under very special circumstances and for the purpose of obtaining particularly desirable classes of settlers.

"We must guard against any supposed divergence of interest and what is still more important any actual divergence of sentiment between the east and the west. Our conditions are more difficult than those of the United States because north of Lake Superior many hundred miles of almost uninhabited country will remain for many years to come not as a link but a gap between the social and national life of the east and that of the west. Our widespread communities must be kept in touch, alien settlers must be assimilated and made acquainted with our institutions, a national spirit must be created.

Homes for Right People

'Not only the prairie provinces, but this great province as well offers homes which should be held as prizes to the best emigrating races of the world. The efforts of the Laurier government have been directed toward quantity, rather than quality. No reasonable or effective effort has been made to bring settlers from European countries to British Columbia. But immigration has poured in from Asia in large volume. It has begun from China before 1896. In the campaign of that year Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced his policy with respect to Chinese immigration in a telegram published as a campaign document. In this telegram he said: "The views of the Liberals of the west will prevail with me." Note well the expression; he proposed to be governed not by the will of the people, but by the will of the Liberals of this province. I adhere to the view which I expressed in 1902 that on this great question the views of the majority of the people of this great province should prevail.

Permits Immigration.

"This treaty by its terms permits the unrestricted immigration into Canada of the entire population of Japan.

"But it was ratified by parliament upon the most positive and explicit assurance by the government as to the character and extent of that immigration. Mr. Fisher, the minister of agriculture, visited Japan in 1903, and upon his return gave in parliament an account of his mission. After dwelling upon the importance of his presence at special audiences with the emperor and empress of that great country, and the impression which he created upon the people and after emphasizing the important trade advantages which would accrue to Canada by reason of his visit, the following debate took place.

Brought It Up In the House.

"I brought up this matter because the House had already been warned by Mr. Aulay Morrison, then a member of parliament from this province, that Japanese immigration was beginning to invade British Columbia. I am reported in Hansard:

"'Mr. Borden.—Before the hon. gentleman sits down, I would like to ask if he was able to make such observations of the social and economic conditions as would justify him in coming to a conclusion with respect to the effect that extensive emigration from Japan might have upon our conditions in Canada?'

"'The Minister of Agriculture.—I am satisfied in the first place that there will be no such emigration from Japan. The Japanese are a home-loving people, and they have abundant opportunity for progress and industry in their own country. The Japanese government itself forbids the emigration of anybody from the country without a permit, and for several years past, they have refused to issue a permit to any Japanese to come to Canada who is a laborer or of the ordinary laboring class. Permits are issued only to merchants, students and travelers.'

"'Mr. Clancy.—Did that extend to emigration to any other country than Canada?'

"'The Minister of Agriculture.—The system extends to every country. No Japanese can leave his own country without a permit from his government. The government there, in accordance with negotiations with our government, have issued orders I think about two years ago, that for the future no permit should be given to a Japanese except the classes I have mentioned, to go to Canada, and that has been strictly maintained to the present time. I had the assurance of the government there, personally and in writing, that that policy would be maintained. My hon. friend spoke about the possibilities of industrial invasion. I consider that there is no prospect of that.'

Where's That Assurance.

"I cannot emphasize too much the importance of the statement thus made to parliament. Mr. Fisher declares that as a minister of the crown, and virtually an ambassador from Canada to Japan, he had the assurance of the Japanese government that their policy restricting emigration to Canada to a mere nominal number, and to an entirely limited class, would be maintained. This information was before parliament when the treaty of 1906 came up for ratification. Sir Wilfrid Laurier repeated in effect the assurances already given by Mr. Fisher. The treaty was in fact accepted by parliament upon the explicit representation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the Japanese government had restricted emigration of its subjects to Canada to not more than four or five from each province annually. He gave parliament and the country clearly to understand that the arrangement in this respect made years ago between Canada and Japan would continue and would not be altered or interfered with by the ratification of that treaty.

"How is it that we hear nothing today of the assurances in writing given by the Japanese government and relied upon by parliament in accepting this treaty. Either the government has deceived parliament or it is in a position to take immediate steps for the abrogation of this treaty.

Refers to Local Criticism

"Let me in this connection just refer to an article which has appeared in the Liberal organ of this city, the Daily Times.

"I have read this article from the commencement to the end. Then I have turned it back, and I have read it from the end to the commencement, and I have turned it upside down and read it. And really there are some parts I cannot make head or tail of, and I do not think you can. The Times talks about my legal ability. It says:

"'Now the titular leader of the Conservative party of Canada is a lawyer of some attainments—the position he occupies ought to justify the assumption that he is a lawyer of more than ordinary attainments. Such being the case he ought to know that the fact of Canada becoming a party to the treaty with Japan had nothing whatever to do with the descent in increasing numbers of the Japanese.' Why it requires any particular knowledge to deal with that particular fact is more than I can understand (laughter). The Times goes on to say, 'Futhermore we charge Mr. Borden with a depth of ignorance utterly unbecoming a federal leader in asserting that the only excuse the Laurier government had for entering into the treaty with Japan was that the Japanese government had agreed to limit the number of immigrants leaving her shores for British Columbia to four or five hundred per annum. The agreement with Japan for the limitation of immigration to British Columbia was entered into long before Canada became a party to the treaty between Great Britain and Japan.'

North Atlantic Company

"Now, let us look a little further to the subsequent development. You have heard, no doubt, of the North Atlantic Trading company, and all of you here have heard of Mr. W. T. R. Preston. May I take just a little of your time to refresh your recollection as to that celebrated Atlantic Trading company which has somewhere in its capacious pockets, wherever those capacious pockets may be situated, some $360,000 of your money—of the public money of Canada, generously handed over to it by the gentlemen on our treasury benches.

"The North Atlantic Trading company, what was it? It executed the most remarkable feat in the way of corporate action that was ever known in this country or any other country. It executed under its corporate seal, and under the signature of its president and secretary an agreement with the government of Canada six months before it came into existence. When it did come into existence in the following June, and when we found out what it was—or rather when the government pretended to let us find out what it was—we discovered that this company was composed of two or three solicitor's clerks. We discovered that while it had a contract with the government of Canada to expend $15,000 a year in advertising, its paid up capital was £50, or a little less than $250.

Were Only Tools

"Well, of course, you know, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, that these men were only tools for the men into whose pockets that money went. We asked the government of Canada, and we asked the paid officials of the government of this country who had that knowledge in his possession—we asked that gentleman in a committee of the house of commons—who were the men who really put into their pockets $360,000 of your money, as they were acting as trustees for you, just as any director of a private corporation is trustee for the shareholders whom he represents. And to the shame of the men who sit upon the treasury benches be it said, that both in the committee on public accounts and in the house of commons, they refused to the people of this country in parliament the right to know into whose pockets this $360,000 of your money had gone. That is one instance in the affairs of the North Atlantic Trading company, and a more disgraceful page never stained the constitutional history of this country than the refusal of the government of Canada in the first place, to bring down that contract at all, and then after they were forced to bring it down, did so with the signatures torn off. (Cries of hear, hear.) And then in the end, when information as to the personnel of the men who received this money came to the knowledge to the paid official of this country, they sustained that paid official in his refusal to disclose that knowledge to the representatives of the people of Canada in parliament assembled.

Suspicious of Each Other.

"Well, there were some interesting debates in the committee on public accounts, and some interesting passages at arms between Mr. Jury and Mr. Preston. Mr. Jury vouchsafed to one of the committees of the house the interesting information that Mr. Preston was interested in the North Atlantic Trading company, and also in the Canadian Labor bureau, to which I will refer later on. He vouchsafed the interesting information that having known Mr. Preston some fifteen or twenty years, and having made a thorough acquaintance of his character, he would not believe him upon his oath. Mr. Preston, not to be outdone, made statements upon oath before the committee that Mr. Jury had improperly misappropriated to his own use certain public moneys by making charges which he was not entitled to make. We pressed an enquiry into the conduct of these two gentlemen. Has that enquiry ever been held up to this day? No, sir, it has not been held and it never will be held.

Canadian Labor Bureau.

"During that time a so-called Canadian Labor bureau was founded in London by one Leopold or Lazurus, and he was permitted to establish his office in the Dominion government building. Mr. Preston in his official capacity publicly repudiated all connection with or responsibility for this bureau. Secretly and privately he gave it his official sanction and encouragement. This fact was thoroughly established by letters signed by Preston and produced by Alfred Jury, another government official, employed in the same department. The Canadian Labor bureau did a large and profitable business. Jury testified on oath to his belief that Preston was interested in this as well as the North Atlantic Trading company. We moved in parliament for Mr. Preston's dismissal. He was not dismissed, but suddenly transferred from London to Japan, and his arrival in Japan was followed a few months later by a large influx of Japanese laborers, who are certainly arriving under some organized system. Is it too much to assume that some unknown and undiscovered North Atlantic or North Pacific Trading company, or Canadian Labor bureau, is profiting either at the expense of the country or at the expense of interested persons from the very large number of Japanese laboring men who are thus embarking upon our shores? This is a subject that will bear investigation later on.

Japan Is Responsible

"Japan is a great nation, the renown of her sodiers as well as her statesmen is world-wide. She is the ally of Great Britain. And the violence which has been offered to her subjects peacefully residing in this country under treaty rights is a matter of deepest regret to every loyal Canadian and every possibly reparation must be made. (Hear, hear.)

"Our treaties with that nation must be observed. National honor must be kept. The government has unnecessarily created a difficult situation, and they must accept the responsibility. Present conditions deter immigration

(Continued on Page Five.)

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As you enter our showroom you will find cases full of the most stylish and fashionable neckwear, hurried forward from the great fashion centres specially for the Fair. The steel trimmed chiffon stocks and new silk ties should interest you. Whilst you are in the neckwear section examine the new underwear, belts and corsets.

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FOR THE CHILDREN

This year we have lavished a great amount of time, personal attention and money on our children's section, but we have been amply repaid by a vastly increased turnover, doubtless the parents have discovered the same high class designs and materials and equally low prices are found in this section as in our Ladies' Ready-to-wear Garments. This season we have a wonderful display of dainty new creations in Children's Coats, Frocks, Underwear, Etc.

Coats and Costumes

How shall we describe the new arrivals, excepting to say with Caesar, "Veni, Vidi, Vici." It is the bewitching style and irresistible stamp of fashion, combined with the absolute perfection of the hand tailoring and new materials that make our exclusive creations in coats, costumes, and gowns the desire of every well dressed lady.

Chic Underskirts

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