

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 22, 1911.

IT SMELLS OF TREASON.

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier (Boston, Nov. 1891):—"The tie which now binds Canada to the Mother Land is Canada's own will. * * * Of course light as the dependence is it cannot last forever. * * * Canada and England have interests apart and the day will come and must come when Canada and England will have to separate from each other. * * * Our object is to offer to the United States free entrance into our territory to all American products, natural and manufactured, provided the United States extends the same privilege to the products of Canada. This involves that we should offer to the American nation advantages denied to the rest of the world. * * * I am firmly convinced that the economic interests of Canada lie with this continent. * * * Trade knows but one law—profit—and will move for and seek profit within or beyond allegiance, without any regard to it."

President Taft (Message, 1911):—"They (the people of Canada) are coming to the parting of the ways, they must soon decide whether they are to regard themselves as isolated permanently from our markets by a perpetual wall or whether we are to be commercially friends. * * * Should we not now, therefore, before their policy is too crystallized and too fixed for change, meet them in a spirit of real concession?"

President Taft (Columbus, Ohio, 1911):—"The greatest reason for adopting this agreement is the fact that it is going to unite two countries with kindred people and lying together across a wide continent in a commercial and social union to the great advantage of both."

Hon. W. S. Fielding (1886):—"I stand here a repealer. * * * It is wrong against God and nature, against every element of geography * * * to attempt to establish any consolidated nationality under our present union."

"The interests of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island are alike in this matter. All these provinces have been sacrificed in the Confederation. * * * The people are in earnest in this matter and the politician who fails to keep faith with them will have reason to regret that he has come forward to take part in the agitation."

"People of Nova Scotia:—If you have any of that latent fire and enthusiasm which once throbbed in your hearts and in the hearts of your fathers, let it be awakened and aroused; let the vials of your righteous indignation be poured forth against those who bind you by that monstrous of legislation, the British North America Act—and let it be said today that you have championed the cause of political freedom, that you have thrown off the Canadian monster, and have emancipated yourselves from the bondage of the Canadian union."

Hon. Beuchamp Clark (Democrat Leader U. S. Congress, 1911):—"I am for it, because I hope to see the day when the American flag will float over every square foot of the British North American possessions clear to the north pole."

"They are people of our blood. They speak our language. Their institutions are much like ours. They are trained in the difficult art of self-government. My judgment is that if the treaty of 1854 had never been abrogated the chances of a consolidation of these two countries would have been much greater than they are now."

Representative Norris said as he understood it Mr. Clark favored the bill for at least one reason, "that it will have a tendency in the end to bring Canada into the union."

"Yes," answered Mr. Clark, "I have no doubt of it." Asked whether that would have a tendency to preserve peace with Great Britain, Mr. Clark said:—"Why, certainly it will. I do not have any doubt whatever that the day is not far distant when Great Britain will joyfully see all her North American possessions become a part of this republic. That is the way things are tending now."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is Premier of Canada and the prime mover in this sudden and fateful move. He has never recanted his opinions of 1891. He holds them today.

Hon. W. S. Fielding is the same man who in 1886 tried to smash Confederation and break up the nation in its formative period.

Both these men led the commercial union campaign in 1891 which meant free trade with the United States, and discrimination against Great Britain. Neither has recanted the sentiments of 1891. When invited to do so a few years since by Mr. Foster in the House, they reasserted them.

President Taft is leading the campaign in the United States for the "Conquest of Canada" through the strategy of blending gifts and flattering words. But the real meaning of the extract from his message given above is, in more cautious language, exactly what Mr. Clark blurted out in honest fashion. Mr. Clark is leader of and represents the Democratic party, and in their pursuit of "the Conquest of Canada" they stand on the same plank.

The proposed Reciprocity agreement is labelled in red letters "ANNEXATION." Whether it is pushed through Washington by Clark or through Ottawa by Fielding it smells of treason to our Canadian Nationality and our British Connection.

THE ALBERT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The persistent efforts which the Telegraph is making to bolster up Mr. Robinson's unfounded charges against Premier Hazen in connection with the Albert Southern Railway are not rendered any more effectual by its

latest garbled and inaccurate statement of the facts of the case. The Telegraph purports to give an account of the situation as it stands today, and casts reflections on Mr. Hazen for not preventing the removal of the rails in the interests of creditors. Why does it not mention the reason of Mr. Robinson's sudden interest in the matter? The Leader of the Opposition, with a fine show of public spirit, is spreading broadcast unfounded charges against Mr. Hazen, and, at the same time, if report speaks true, is acting for a client who, a month or so ago, made a claim against the railway which he is unable to substantiate. Mr. Robinson doubtless thought the present occasion afforded an excellent opportunity to give his friend a run for his money, and possibly make some party capital. But the trick is too thin. Mr. Robinson is well acquainted with all the facts of the case, but The Standard has no objection to refreshing his memory.

The rails of the Albert Southern were removed under instructions from Mr. W. Alder Trueman, of Dalhousie, who is the trustee for all the creditors, on whose instructions he acted, and upon the advice of his solicitors. The liens or claims of the Federal and Provincial Governments were carefully investigated at the time, and were found under the circumstances to be non-operative. The subsidies were originally granted by a government to which Mr. Robinson owes political allegiance, without any reservations, but, as declared by the subsidy act, for the purpose of aiding the company in the construction of the road. The rails in which Mr. Robinson now professes to show such a deep concern were not a gift, or a loan, but were purchased out of the general funds of the company, made up of subsidies and contributions, and were as much the property of the company as any other of their undertakings.

Before any lien was declared by the act of the Legislature the creditors had invested their money in the road upon the state of the facts and law which then existed, whereby the company was the owner of the property clear of all liens. The lien act was not passed until 1883, two years afterwards, and would, therefore, as Mr. Robinson well knows, be subject to any encumbrances previously placed upon the company's property. Further, in the language of the statutes, the lien on the railway was for the purpose of "preventing it from being closed up," and if the lien could be enforced it could therefore only be for the purpose of operating the road.

Under these circumstances when Mr. Robinson seeks to attach blame to Mr. Hazen for not exercising the powers of the lien he condemns the governments which preceded the present administration. The condition of the road, which has been closed for sixteen years, speaks for itself. At the time the rails were removed the road bed had almost entirely disappeared; across the marsh it had settled to the general level; ditches were filled up and clogged; and in many cases the rails were covered with sod and mud to a depth of one foot. In other places the rails had been entirely removed or had rolled down the banks into the ditches and become submerged. The western end of the road near Alma village was overgrown with trees, some of them as large as five inches at the butt, and the sleepers had entirely rotted away. The bridges, while standing, would not support any weight.

In the light of these conditions, Mr. Robinson now asks why Mr. Hazen did not take advantage of the lien, which had no preferential claim on the property, but was merely for the purpose of operating the road. By objecting to the rails being removed Mr. Robinson is actually opposing the claims of the creditors, whose one chance of recovering part of their money was to realize on the only asset that was left. Mr. Robinson's Government and those which preceded him took no steps to save the property from ruin, because they well knew that the situation was hopeless, yet Mr. Hazen must be blamed for declining to involve the province in useless litigation, and for permitting the creditors to recover what they could out of the wreck. The Dominion Government also advanced money to assist the Albert Southern and have entirely failed to make good any claims they might at one time have possessed.

Many claims have been put forward which are either bogus or have lapsed by statute. All genuine claims against the road are preferred through Mr. Trueman as trustee, for whom Messrs. Fowler and Jones are acting in the disposal of the rails. The Telegraph is, as usual, quite inaccurate when it states that the proceeds from the rails so far disposed of amount to \$22,500 a ton, or that \$32,000 is the total realized. The sale is not yet completed. Genuine creditors of the road are satisfied that through Mr. Trueman the best is being done under the circumstances. Mr. Robinson's malicious attempt to involve Mr. Hazen in a matter in which the province is now in no way concerned is thoroughly understood by those acquainted with the facts and carries its own condemnation.

A BOYISH LEADER.

Mr. C. W. Robinson, says the Moncton Times, was first heralded to the political world as "the boy candidate." In course of time he became "the boy Premier." Perhaps he may now be called the boy leader of the opposition at Fredericton. At all events his speeches are decidedly boyish and amateurish. The truth is that Mr. Robinson has no great love for partisan politics, and less for the hard work that is necessary in successful political leadership.

He likes the honor and the social advantages of political preferment, but an afternoon on the golf links or a motor ride is more to his liking than a political meeting or the study of political questions, or meeting those of his constituents, and they are not a few, who "want something."

His colleagues and partisan friends have complained that he is not aggressive enough and it is only after much prodding or the sheer necessity of things, that he brings himself to anything like a political campaign. And perhaps he is not so much to blame. In private life he has many good qualities and, if all reports be true, he may be long be called to a position the duties of which will be less irksome than those of leading a forlorn hope.

Current Comment

(Canadian Churchman.)

This is a new version of an oft-repeated story:—"Old Gentleman, on visiting country church, to verger:—"And what do they call you?" Verger:—"Well, sir, the parson that were five-and-twenty year ago, e' called me a 'Beetle.' Then the next one says, 'Beetles is out o' fashion, so 'e called me a sextant; and now the present incumbency says I'm a virgin, so I don't rightly know what I am, Sir!"

(Buffalo Express.)

Let the cynical, who are fond of repeating the witticism that a clergyman never hears a call to another field unless money talks at the same time, note that the English preacher who has been summoned to a New York charge refused to come at the salary offered—because he thinks it is too much.

(Belleville Intelligencer.)

"Men love blondes," announces a Chicago sociologist, with ponderous wisdom. To be sure they do—also brunettes, semi-blondes and "any little girl that's a nice little girl."

THE COURTS.

Chancery Division.

In chancery division yesterday afternoon, before Mr. Justice McLeod, Charles A. McDonald on behalf of Charles R. McKee, applied for appointment of a trustee in the matter of the last will and testament of the late James McKee, deceased, of Misspec. The property in question is situated at Misspec. The application was granted.

The February sittings of the chancery division opened yesterday at 11 o'clock with His Honor Mr. Justice McLeod presiding.

On motion of Fred R. Taylor, for the defendant in the case of Lodge vs. Calhoun, this case goes over until the next court with an understanding that it may be taken up in the interim.

Mr. G. T. Todd appears for the plaintiff. D. King Hazen presented a petition of the Hon. J. D. Hazen asking to be appointed a committee in the matter of Rebecca Mitchell, formerly of Alma, Albert county, a lunatic, now confined in the Provincial Hospital, with power to sell her real estate, which comprises about 100 acres situate in the Parish of Alma. The petition was allowed.

County Court Judges.

Judges Forbes of the St. John county court; Wells, of the Westmorland and Kent county courts; McLatchy, of the Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland county courts; Wilson, of the York, Queens, Sunbury county courts; Carleton, of the Charlotte, Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska and Percy A. Guthrie, clerk of the York county court were in session in the county court chambers yesterday morning.

At the annual meeting of the Baristers' Society held in Fredericton not long ago, a committee of all the county judges and President R. W. Hewson, K. C. of Moncton, vice-president Recorder Baxter, of St. John and P. A. Guthrie were appointed to revise the county court practice and to arrange for the appointment of stenographers in the county courts. Judge Wilson is the convenor and at yesterday morning's meeting an informal discussion took place. The committee will meet at a date to be announced.

OBITUARY.

Halifax, Feb. 21.—Hon. Mathew H. Ritchey, for five years lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia, and for six years a member of the Canadian House of Commons, died this morning after a long illness, aged 83 years. Deceased was mayor of Halifax for several terms. Hon. Mr. Ritchey was the eldest son of the Rev. Mathew Ritchey, at one time president of the Victoria college, Cobourg, for some years president of the Wesleyan Methodist conference in Canada and subsequently of eastern British America. Deceased was born in Windsor, N. S., in 1828. He was educated at the Collegiate school, Windsor; M. C. Academy, Cobourg; M. C. College, Toronto, and Queen's College, Toronto, studied law and was called to the bar in 1850. In 1854 he married Sarah Lavinia, daughter of the late Hon. J. H. Anderson, senator. He was appointed a Q. C. in 1873. Mount Allison university conferred the degree of D. C. L. on him in 1884. Mr. Ritchey took an interest in public affairs. He was mayor of Halifax from 1864 to 1867, and again from 1875 to 1878. He represented Halifax in the House of Commons from 1878 to 1883 and then became lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia and served five years. He was a member of the senate of the University of Halifax.

HOTELS.

Royal.

M. M. Wortman, Moncton; Fred M. Matheson, Moncton; J. A. Morrison and wife, Fredericton; Mrs. A. E. Trites, N. E. Trites, Salisbury; W. A. Mann and wife, St. John's; N. L. W. Leherd, Moncton; R. King, Woodstock; J. B. Gregory, Fredericton; G. W. Hoegs, Sussex; B. D. Rogers, Amherst; J. Fletcher, Moncton; G. O. D. Dickson, Hampton; Alex. S. Hart, Toronto; Geo. Gilbert, Bathurst; P. D. Taylor, Toronto; H. Bard, Moncton; W. W. Wells, Moncton; H. P. McLeod, Fred P. Robinson, Fredericton; D. M. Vance, Woodstock; J. T. Whitlock, St. Stephen; R. J. McCordan, H. C. Parker, Moncton; L. Cleghorn, C. W. Speirs, G. W. M. Burns, Toronto; R. V. Stevens, Wallingford; W. R. Eastwood, N. P. Glasgow, N. S.; F. O. Linton, W. M. Stevens, Truro; S. L. Harrison, G. B. Dunn, Houlton; A. N. Liset, Boston; L. E. Davis, Philadelphia; David Brewer, Moncton; J. W. Leon, Manchester, Eng.; S. A. McKay, Bathurst.

Victoria.

James Dewitt, Shediac; J. K. Fleming, Hartland; A. I. Brown, Bridge-town; J. E. Stewart, Andover; G. S. Sherman, H. P. Crandall, Brownville; W. E. Hubbard, Fredericton; J. H. W. Woods, Welsford; F. C. Taylor, Geo. Taylor, Hoyt Station; J. A. Chartrand, Moncton; E. R. Wishart, St. Martin's; U. Z. King, Eastville; J. P. Bradley, Moncton; T. B. Chipman, Tupperville; J. C. Earle, Douglas Harbor; J. W. Bohan, Bath; O. N. Miller, Florenceville.

Dufferin.

J. C. Bourinot, Port Hawkesbury; W. R. Heckmott, Halifax; W. S. Hartley, Welsford; A. M. Hatheway, Boston; W. H. Lynn Usher, Moncton; A. W. McKee, Riverview; W. J. Good, Amherst; G. K. Calhoun, Moncton; A. W. Jones, Sussex; Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Ashley, Port Arthur; J. C. Turner, Amherst; Mrs. W. H. Clarke, Sussex; Chas. S. O. Crocker, Campbellton; Hugh A. Lawrence, St. George; S. P. Carrite, New York; G. E. Phillips, Woodstock; H. W. Upham, Sussex; W. S. Carter, Fredericton; L. Belliveau, Boston; E. C. Pope, Pictou.

Y. M. C. A. Worker Here.

C. K. Calhoun, general field secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who is making a tour of the Maritime Provinces in the interests of the association, arrived in the city last evening. While here he will confer with the directors of the local association on matters connected with current work. The executive of the local association will hold an at home to which members of committees, the ladies' auxiliary, and friends of the association will be invited. Mr. Calhoun will deliver a lecture on the growth of the work of the association in Canada. The lecture will be illustrated by a series of views, showing various Y. M. C. A.

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