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JOHN RUSSELL, JR., Mgr.

E. W. McCREADY, Editor.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers.

These newspapers advocate:

British connection

Home rule for life

Measures for the benefit

of the people and the advancement

of the Dominion

of the Empire

of the Nation

of the World

of the Universe

of the Cosmos

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sort of administration he promised so loudly. He and his supporting orators plied much about bad roads, yet during the past spring the roads were admirable, and it was evident that under the Hazen road policy there was no hope of permanent relief, because in his anxiety to retain political advantage in every parish, Premier Hazen had withheld from the people themselves that measure of control over their roads which again and again he promised definitely to give them so soon as he had the power to do so.

Mr. Hazen, albeit reluctantly, made election promises last session with respect to the regulation and control of public utility companies. Last week his public utility commissioners, whose expenses and salaries are to be borne by the companies they are to regulate and control, decided, and declared publicly, that unless some citizen or some group of citizens would undertake to finance what amounts to a prolonged suit against the New Brunswick Telephone Company, they, the Commissioners, did not feel that there was anything for them to do. To Mr. J. Douglas Hazen this action may spell regulation and control in the public interest, but to the thousands of individuals in this province who were led to expect that the Public Utilities Commission would be a body of the nature of the Canadian Railroad Commission, the recent decision by Colonel Vince and his associates only means that, if nothing fresh shall transpire in the matter before the next session, there must be a sharply renewed agitation that will be carried into the Legislature, looking to satisfactory action in these matters.

It is needless here to recite the quarrels within the Hazen cabinet that have been continuous since it was formed, and that now and again, when some incident aggravates them anew, become the talk of the country. To a weak leader these family dissensions are, of course, an added burden. They make for insecurity on the part of the leader, and they give body and bones to the complaint, heard so often, that while Mr. Hazen is disposed to act as a dictator, he has neither the driving force nor the executive ability which sometimes seem to excuse political dictatorship.

Never, perhaps, in the history of provincial politics, has a man thrown away an opportunity so great as that which circumstances thrust upon Mr. Hazen at the time of the last provincial elections. To say so is to state what is today a commonly accepted fact in this province. Mr. Hazen has frittered away the wide margin of advantage which he held previous to his first actual session. Untried, and with a formidable majority at his back, it must be said that at one time he promised to go far. But when Mr. Hazen came actually to undertake the administration of affairs his first session disclosed grave weaknesses, with respect to his public policies and in connection with the management of his party. Today his prestige is broken and his following throughout New Brunswick is disgruntled and hesitant.

It is perhaps unnecessary to say that these circumstances combine to offer, to the opposition so ably led by Hon. C. W. Robinson a most inviting opportunity.

THE TEACHERS

It must be hoped that the general public is following with close attention the work done by the teachers' convention. It is perhaps not generally realized that there have been nearly 600 teachers in attendance, that this is a much larger number than has been recorded previously, and that in proportion to our population the attendance probably would establish a new Canadian record in such matters.

In some respects new ground has been broken since this meeting was begun, and perhaps it is natural that there should have been in some quarters hesitancy or criticism concerning some of the proposals put forward. But it is easy to criticize the teachers in general terms without taking pains to acquaint oneself with what they have actually done in the past, or fully grasping the meaning of what they are proposing to do in the future. A very great majority of these men and women are hard-working and invaluable public servants whose work must exercise a profound influence upon the future of the province. It is not wise for laymen to rush hurriedly to conclusions regarding the schools, or to quarrel too readily with any decision that may be arrived at by the educational authorities. For, after all, it must be obvious that in their own field these people have a grasp of the situation which the average onlooker is bound to lack. On all sides we find citizens insisting that the schools should do more for better work and produce more finished graduates, while, at the same time, some are demanding fewer studies, some more numerous studies, some longer terms, some shorter terms, some fewer holidays, and some more holidays. As a matter of fact, the best teachers already find it almost impossible to crowd into the time at their disposal effective instruction in the subjects already on the list, and in a great many cases, both in the city and in the country districts, most teachers have classes so large that they cannot give the amount of individual attention to each pupil that is indispensable if the desired amount of progress is to be recorded.

It is a matter for congratulation that so many teachers have come to the city on the present occasion, and thus shows an active and intelligent interest in the work they have to do, and it must be said that in the papers read and in the addresses given there has been an uncommon degree of excellence.

It would, perhaps, be well if parents who oftentimes are disposed to be critical of the generally excellent schools we have in this province, would give far more personal attention to the actual work that is carried on than they now do. Improvement is always both possible and desirable, and the schools are constantly being improved, yet one feels that were the people generally possessed of a more exact and intimate knowledge of the work actually being done, there would be much less criticism, though the similar volume of it

might be more useful because better founded and better directed.

CONCERNING MINISTERS

Two interesting statements were made last week with regard to the ministerial calling. The *Toronto Globe*, alluding to the fact that all the churches are in need of more men for the ministry, declared that merely to offer higher salaries would not solve the problem, even if it did secure a larger number of candidates. The real problem, it says, is not merely one of more men, but of better men, and the attraction for the latter is not money but an opportunity for real service. The *Globe* charges that there are too many petty functions—features connected with the ministry, and that these do not appeal to men of real power. The *Globe* further charges that the curriculum in most colleges is antiquated and outgrown, hopelessly out of touch with Canadian life, and not at all fitted to train men to be leaders of men in Christian service. It says:

"Scholars the colleges must produce, but scholarship touched with emotion and inspired to service. Let the churches and their colleges revise their ideals of the ministry and the call for men will not be in vain."

The other statement was made by Rev. Dr. Chown of Toronto, at the conference last week of Canadian Churches and Clergy. We quote:

"Dr. Chown declared that ministers needed to come down from the high flights of theology and learn first hand by personal contact and observation the conditions that exist in the world, as what they needed most was a better acquaintance with the woes of the world and less of the mysteries of higher criticism. The minister should be sent out to work as a man amongst men."

Dr. Chown charged that the teaching in religious colleges ran too much into scientific and theological theology, and paid too little attention to the teaching of the golden rule.

Such statements as those of The *Globe* and Rev. Dr. Chown are significant of a changed attitude of mind that is becoming more general as the years pass. The non-essential features of religious life are being gradually thrust aside. There is also less emphasis upon religion related to the next world and more upon that which fits a man for a right life in the world of today.

THE DOMINION EXHIBITION

The work of preparing for the Dominion Exhibition goes steadily on, and during the last few months there has been, all over Canada, a very considerable amount of publicity which later on will bear fruit in bringing exhibitors and visitors to St. John. The volume of this advertising is not so great as we would like to see it, but we must suppose that any lack in this regard is explained by the somewhat limited funds to which the exhibition manager has access. Locally the Exhibition Association has been under very heavy expense in connection with the renewal and extension of its buildings. This work was absolutely necessary, and it will result in giving the Dominion fair a home, worthy of the great show.

So far as can be judged by the great progress made up to this time, all of the arrangements which have been entrusted to Manager Good have been carried through with energy and good judgment, and we may suppose that it will be necessary to throw more and more responsibility upon him as the date for the opening approaches. After all, he is the experienced exhibition expert, and, invaluable as are the time and work voluntarily devoted to the exhibition by city business men, who are both willing and unselfish, it will doubtless be thought that the more Mr. Good is given a free hand the better the general results will be when we come to examine the success of the great fair.

We say "success," because it may now freely be taken for granted that the show will prove a great success. Indeed, unless there be some real misfortune in the matter of weather, the Dominion fair will be an event in St. John's history long to be remembered.

It will, one is sure, be remembered that this is not merely a provincial show, and that some features which have been criticized on former occasions will have to be eliminated in September. One would suppose, for example, that the amusement features would be carefully examined before a list is accepted and that any below a reasonable standard of excellence would be excluded.

There is every prospect now that from the industrial standpoint, the exhibition will be a memorable one. This is a matter for congratulation, because, in addition to the immediate benefits arising from the presence here of a great crowd at exhibition time, St. John will receive a very great amount of solid advertising during the fair, the effect of which will extend over several years to come.

Canada, in these days of its rapid progress, is not yet fully awake to the advantages we have here in the East. If we mistake not, there will be coming to St. John during the exhibition hundreds of keen men representing many lines of endeavor, who will not fail to be impressed by our situation here in point of railway and water transportation, cheap raw material, good labor, an admirable climate, and other considerations of no little importance bearing upon business expansion.

St. John already looks forward with no little pride and confidence to the coming show, and there will be, no doubt, an increasing determination on the part of most citizens to unite so far as they are able in making the fair a sort of turning point in the history of the city and of the province.

PROTECTING STREAMS

The Telegraph's Fredericton correspondent yesterday discussed the action of the Federal Fisheries officer in attempting to prevent mill owners along some of the New Brunswick rivers from polluting the waters by filling them with sawdust in order to save themselves a few dollars a

year. It must have struck everybody who read the facts set forth in the despatch in question, that the Federal officer referred to has taken hitherto a very lenient view of the action of the men who have been known for years to violate the law in regard to matters of this kind.

The only way to resume specie payment, as a famous saying runs, is to resume. Similarly, the only way for a mill owner to stop himself from throwing sawdust into the river that brings his logs to the saw, is to stop himself. It has been pleaded in excuse, in one or two instances, by mill owners, that they were unable to control the men in their employ. That is to say, they could not prevent themselves from throwing in the sawdust.

New Brunswick should have outgrown this sort of thing, and one judges from the tone of the remarks credited to the Federal officer by our correspondent, that at least action is to be taken that will prevent the disgraceful pollution of streams about which there has been frequent complaint during the last few years. To prevent such practices will impose no hardship upon anyone; indeed the small additional expense which mill owners may have to meet if they keep the law, can readily be made up in other ways if they will adopt up-to-date methods in handling what is now a waste product. Anyhow, no further defiance of the law and of public sentiment should be tolerated.

MR. FIELDING'S SPEECH

The Telegraph's special cable from London this morning contains an account of the Dominion Day dinner in the Empire's capital and a summary of the highly important addresses made there by Hon. W. S. Fielding and Earl Crewe. The gathering was one of uncommon importance this year in many respects, and, as will be seen from the cable summary, Mr. Fielding dealt somewhat vigorously with the alleged interview recently credited to Admiral Sir A. Douglas in which that stout sailor was reported to have said that annexation sentiment was dangerously prevalent in this country.

The admiral has not yet had an opportunity of saying whether or not he was correctly reported by the Montreal newspaper in which the alleged interview appeared, for he has been at sea since his publication. It is probably a safe prediction that he will be somewhat horrified when he reads the opinions which were placed in his mouth by the newspaper in question. But be that as it may, Mr. Fielding made a forcible and straightforward statement concerning the matter yesterday, a statement such as would be quite unnecessary here in Canada, but which was, perhaps, demanded under the circumstances in London. The Finance Minister's words were brief and pointed. Canada, east, west, north and south, he said, is untouched by annexation sentiment, and never in the history of this country was there so little of it in existence as there is today. The Dominion, he added, is soundly British now and is determined to remain so. Mr. Fielding's words were heartily cheered, and upon reading them Canadians everywhere will instantly confirm them.

He dealt also with the complaint made, chiefly by Conservatives on the scent for political capital, that in recent trade treaties Canada has been making it difficult or impossible hereafter to put in force a satisfactory fiscal arrangement with the Mother Country. His remarks on these matters, and those of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply, make good reading in this country, and should tend strongly to brush away many of the foolish allegations so frequently made by Conservative politicians and newspapers embittered and rendered reckless by pride and hopeless years in opposition.

CANADA'S NAVAL VESSELS

Mr. Albert Vickers, chairman of Vickers Sons & Maxim, who is in Montreal in connection with the great works that may be established there by his firm, was entertained a day or two ago by the harbor commission of that city at the Mount Royal Club. Mr. Vickers' firm is, of course, well known as the builders of many important war vessels, notably fast scouts and destroyers, and their establishment in England employs some 20,000 men. A visit to the gun factories, where the great rifles carried by some of the Dreadnoughts are constructed, was one of the interesting features of last year's Imperial Press Conference. Mr. Vickers is an advanced Imperialist, and is naturally keenly interested in Canada's proposal to construct in this country the ships which will constitute the naval force which it will add to the sea power of the British Empire.

In an address after the luncheon, at Montreal, Mr. Vickers said that the opening in Canada for British shipbuilders was first brought clearly to his notice during the Colonial Conference of 1907, when Canada, he went on to say, "was ably represented by your gifted and beloved Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and The Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries."

At the request of Sir Wilfrid, Vickers Sons & Maxim sent representatives to Canada to look into its opportunities and possibilities. Mr. Vickers said that his representatives had been immensely impressed with the value to his company of a foothold in the Dominion. They made an exhaustive and complete report upon some of the principal Canadian ports, as a result of which he expressed the hope that the Vickers Company would now soon become an active factor in the marine and industrial development of this country.

Mr. Vickers himself made a similar tour of observation later, devoting particular attention to the shipping of the St. Lawrence. To advanced the opinion that the St. Lawrence ship channel is safe enough and that the optimistic harbor commissioners of Montreal are by no means building in advance of the requirements of the trade. Continuing, he said:

"I do not pretend, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, to understand your Canadian national politics, and I may be pardoned on this occasion if I share the keen satisfaction felt by all true Britishers at home and throughout the Empire, that at your

last session of Parliament, Canada, in keeping with her true spirit of fealty to the British Crown has decided to bear her fair share of the burdens of Imperial defence. Your Canadian navy, at first it is true will not be very large, but it is a commencement in the right direction and will develop and grow with the country, and so before long will play no small part, if the occasion should arise, as a unit in the Empire's navy, and at the same time will always be in a position to protect Canada's long coast line."

It may fairly be inferred from these remarks, and those of Mayor Guerin, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Mr. Andrew Allan, president of the Shipping Federation, and others, that it is regarded as a settled thing that Vickers Sons & Maxim are soon to undertake the construction of some Canadian naval vessels. Later on—and perhaps not much later—we may expect to hear that Harland & Wolff, the great Belfast shipbuilders, who are interested in the dry dock and ship repair plant to be built in St. John, will be heard from more definitely in regard to a ship yard somewhere in the Maritime Provinces, and it must be thought that St. John's claims in this connection are so good that they could not readily be overlooked.

By the way, Mr. Vickers' references to Canada's navy will be widely accepted as showing how foolish are most partisan Conservative criticisms of the plan this country has adopted.

THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Everyone to his taste. Dominion Day in St. John was celebrated quietly, but loyally and happily, without any of the ear-splitting forms of celebration which are a source of constant complaint in the Republic beside us.

A great number of St. John people went to the country, which, at this time of the year, is perhaps more beautiful, more restful, and more enjoyable, than at any other season. A great number, of course, remained in the city and amused themselves by various forms of rather "placid diversion"; and on the trains, on the street cars, and on the steamers, there was, for the most part, good order and an admirable exhibition of good temper and general satisfaction.

Citizens did not burn much powder by way of celebrating the Dominion's anniversary, and there is a welcome absence of those accidents and fatalities which cause many American newspapers on the morning after the "Glorious Fourth" to print lists resembling those sent from the field of battle after a heavy engagement.

After all, the quiet method of celebration is preferable.

MR. FOSTER'S POSITION

When the local Conservatives came presently to the occasion on which Mr. Foster is to be one of the orators to address them, they should give attention to several troublesome questions raised by the Toronto Star as a result of that Ontario meeting at which Mr. R. L. Borden said silent while Mr. J. W. Johnson, M. P. P., indicted a certain John Doe who is now generally believed to be no other than Mr. Foster himself.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell, as the Star points out, has a long standing grudge against Mr. Foster as one of the famous "nest of traitors." This circumstance appears to have influenced Sir Mackenzie at the Trenton picnic where Mr. Johnson spoke and which Mr. Borden presided over. While the Conservative knight made no direct attack upon the ex-minister of finance he took occasion to praise Mr. Doherty, Mr. Foster's successor, in a somewhat pointed manner as "honest" * * * a man whose private as well as public actions are prompted by the highest ideals * * * loyal to his leader * * * abhors trickery. This was generally translated as an inferential comment upon Mr. Foster.

But it remained for Mr. Johnson to go nearer to the centre of the target. He said:

"When Mr. Borden is called upon to form a cabinet we shall require from him that it shall contain no man whose record is tainted, no matter how eminent his services to the party may have been in the past. The Conservative party cannot afford to carry any man who has used time or money to his own advantage that he owed to the business in which he was employed, or from the management of a company to promote his own interests. The Conservative party have carried that burden too long."

There is no mention of Mr. Foster in this, but, as the Star says, it is clearly Mr. Foster, who was meant; and the indictment is by no means new, because Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the House of Commons in 1909, made it before Mr. Foster's face, when, in reply to one of Mr. Foster's insinuations he used almost the language employed by Mr. Johnson, saying:

"I have only to say to my honorable friends that I have never heard the man who is said to have been in the employ of the people's money. * * * I have to say to my honorable friends that I never manipulated other people's money; I never manipulated trust funds."

Mr. Borden, who was present on that occasion, attempted to come to his lieutenant's rescue, and he said:

"I understood the right honorable gentleman to suggest in the plainest possible way that the honorable member for North Toronto (which is specific enough) had been guilty of manipulating trust funds. * * * If he did not mean that, I venture to think that, in the interest of a good order in this House, it would be desirable that the right honorable gentleman should withdraw that expression."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not withdraw, but proceeded to say frankly that his words did refer to Mr. Foster, for he said:

"I have never said under any false colors. * * * I have no hesitation in saying that, in speaking as I did, I applied my words to the honorable member of North Toronto."

The Star, with some logic, insists that Mr. Borden, when he listened