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VOL. XIII., No. 29

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1905

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## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

When Lord Elgin was Governor-General and the Reformers were in Power—Effects of British Free Trade—Great Loss to Canada—Meeting of Parliament in 1853 in Montreal—Lord Elgin delivers his Speech in both English and French—Fury of the Tories—The Lower Canada Rebellion—Losses Bill Introduced—Received the Royal Assent the 25th April, 1849—Henry John Boulton the first Reform Macebent—Mr. Baldwin opposed to Secularization of the Clergy Reserves.

There is no doubt but what Lord Elgin was required to bring into requisition during his administration of Canadian affairs in "the fifties" and the three years previous to that decade, statesmanship that was brilliant and admirable. But guided by the best political axioms of the age and the will to enforce them, he could not but succeed. Here was an oligarchy that had withstood the attacks of able and liberal men for years; that had come out of one rebellion successfully and that was backed by a strong faction of reckless and irresponsible men. There was contention and hatred between two provinces composed of people of different bloods and different religions, the one province having the lesser number of people, but believing it had the natural right to rule the other. It was the mission of this heroic governor to reconcile those differences if human skill was capable of such an effort. The conditions of trade and commerce and navigation were bad and contrary to the interests of the colony that he ruled over. They had to be adjusted and made to conform to enlightened and effective legislation. There was rife a general feeling of discontent when former loyalists and defeated factionists began to discuss independence first, and annexation afterwards to the United States. It was a time, too, of party disintegration and political confusion. The once great Reform party of Upper Canada split in two as did also the same party among the French in Lower Canada. The legislation of the Imperial parliament, too, was inimical to Colonial interests, and disappointed Tories and advanced radicals were casting long eyes towards the United States. When Lord Elgin came to Canada the condition of affairs was very depressed and grass was growing in many of our streets. The mercantile classes were in a state of thorough disgust and became lukewarm in their allegiance.

The leading commodities of Canadian commerce were wheat, flour and timber. The British Free Trade Act of 1846, which dealt the Irish farmers so severe a blow, was equally effective in its severity against the farmers of Canada, and the capitalists who had built mills and gone into flour making. By the Canada Corn Act of 1843, not only the wheat of Canada, but also its flour, were admitted into England at a small duty. A large amount of money had been invested here for the purpose of building mills for the grinding of corn brought to Canada from the United States for transportation to the British and foreign markets, principally by members of the Tory party. But almost before these arrangements were completed and the newly built mills were set to work, the Act of 1846 swept away the advantage conferred on Canada, thus bringing upon the province a frightful amount of loss to individuals and a great derangement of colonial finances. The Bill of 1846 enabled the Americans to send their own corn meal to England by their own

routes, free of duty. Lord Elgin was quite sensible of the loss caused by this legislation and pressed its hardships on the Colonial Office in London. He pointed out how Lord Stanley's bill had attracted all the produce of the West to the St. Lawrence. Peel's bill, on the other hand, drove the whole produce to New York and the American channels, destroying the revenue Canada had expected to gain from the exportation of cereals. Mill-owners, ship-owners and merchants were ruined. Not a shilling, Lord Elgin wrote, could be raised on the credit of the province, and public dues had to be paid by the issue of debentures. The Imperial Navigation Laws had cramped the commerce of Canada by restricting it to British vessels.

Baldwin and Lord Elgin believed that the dawn of a new prosperity would follow the repeal of the Navigation Laws and the establishment of a treaty of reciprocity with the United States, giving them the navigation of the St. Lawrence on the admission to their markets of Canadian produce free of American duties, and its accomplishment was persistently looked forward to until finally accomplished by his Lordship in the year 1854.

Parliament met on the 18th January, 1848. The Governor-General took advantage of the abolition of the law that restrained the use of the French language, and delivered his speech to both branches of the legislature in French as well as in English, and the compliment was fully appreciated by the French. This, of course, the Tories found a cause for reproach, believing as they did, that no concessions should be made to their fellow colonists, a course that was stupid as well as intolerant. But their fury knew no bounds when the bill for indemnifying the French Canadians who had suffered losses on account of the rebellion in 1837 was introduced. It was right and proper to indemnify Upper Canadians, but all wrong to indemnify Lower Canadians. Wm. H. Blake, in his place in parliament taunted them by telling them that they were the cause of the rebellion, with their tyrannical, oppressive and unjust treatment; and Sir Allan Napier MacNab wanted to fight him for telling them so well known a truth.

The second reading of the indemnity bill took place on the 13th of Feb., 1849. The measure, wrote Lord Elgin to Earl Grey, might not be free from objection, but his advisers (the government) had no other course open to them but that which they had followed. But for all that the government was described by Henry Sherwood and his followers as the "rebel camp," and the opposition as the "loyal" party. Petitions against the measure were gotten up all over the province and were sent to Lord Elgin. But the Governor knew that if MacNab and Sherwood and Cayley had come into power they themselves would have to pass such a bill and would have been glad to do it if it would only secure them in their offices. "If," wrote Lord Elgin, "I had dissolved Parliament I might have produced a rebellion, but most assuredly I should not have produced a change of ministry." Lord Elgin trusted to time to tone down the violence of the opposition. The Government of the day was introducing and carrying through much valuable and necessary legislation. The bill was passed by a vote of forty-seven to eighteen for the whole house, and out of thirty-one members for Upper Canada, seventeen voted for it, while of the English speaking members for Lower Canada, ten in number, six voted for it. It soon received the royal assent, along with a number of other measures. At that time and before, it was the wont of the British population to rule the city of Montreal. It has not ruled Montreal since. It broke out in mob violence, was unrestrained from passion, was careless of consequences, and burned the parliament houses and everything in them, the members having to flee for their lives. All that was saved from destruction was an oil painting of Queen Victoria. This was on the 25th of April, 1849. Lord Elgin, as he left the Parliament buildings, was hoisted at and groaned at, and his carriage was pelted with rotten eggs. A meeting was called for that evening of "all loyal Britishers" to assemble at the Champ de Mars. The fire bells were rung, inflammatory speeches were made. Those most prominent in burning the Parliament House were one Alfred Perry, I believe chief of the fire department, and

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one Courtney. Now, the mob that did this mischief were neither Irish nor French, but a large body of Irish Catholics was drawn up close by with the view of protecting an adjacent convent. The windows of the office of Hincks' newspaper, The Pilot, were broken, the houses of Lafontaine, Dr. Wolfred Nelson, Hincks, Holmes, and Charles Wilson, were wrecked. The boarding houses of Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Cameron were visited and hostile demonstrations made in front of them. The next unreasonable thing the perpetrators of violence did was to get up a petition to the Queen to recall the Governor and to disallow the bill.

The House of Assembly, by a vote of thirty-six to sixteen, voted an address to the Governor, expressing their abhorrence at the outrages which had been heaped on the Queen's representative, and approving of his just and impartial administration of the government with his late as well as his present advisers. When he proceeded to receive this address at the Government House (going from his residence at Monklands) he was escorted by a troop of volunteer dragoons and accompanied by several of his suite. Showers of stones greeted his progress. The rioters awaited his return to renew the assault, but he returned by a different route. Finding this out, the rioters pursued him in carriages and catching up, they assailed his vehicle with great violence. Among the injured were Sir Frederick Bruce, the Governor's brother. Every panel of the carriage was found to be broken. It was not safe after that for members of Parliament to be found in the streets and several were held up and beaten. For weeks Lord Elgin confined himself to his country seat and did not venture out to expose himself.

The insults to Lord Elgin and his administration were not confined to Montreal. At Toronto they took the form of effigy burning. Two months later the fires of fanaticism were rekindled in Montreal in consequence of the arrest of persons implicated in the burning of the parliament buildings. One man was committed for trial, but next day was bailed out by one of the judges of the Supreme Court. On the night of the 18th of August a violent crowd attacked the house of Hon. Mr. Lafontaine, when one of the assailants was shot! The blood of an Anglo-Saxon was spilled by a Frenchman, and violent attacks were made on the ministers by the Tory press. The deceased had a large funeral, attended by men wearing red scarves and ribbons. Incendiaries were numerous in several parts of the city. A coroner's inquest was held on the young man, when Mr. Lafontaine was acquitted of all blame. Two of the Tory papers that had attacked him had the decency to apologize for their unjust assaults. On the 3rd of September Lord Elgin wrote to the Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey: "The existence of a perfect understanding between the more outrageous and the more respectable factions of the Tory party in the town is rendered even more manifest by the readiness with which the former, through their organs, have yielded to the latter when they preached moderation in good earnest."

The ministry decided that parliament could no longer assemble in Montreal, and should meet alternately every two years in Toronto and Quebec. Lord Elgin did not agree with them and it was not until the following November that he gave up the idea of clinging to Montreal, and then determined to summon parliament for the next two sessions in Toronto, to meet in the old houses on Front street, which had not seen the use for which they had been erected since the union of the provinces.

In the meantime that summer and fall Lord Elgin tested the feeling of the strongholds of British feeling, ac-

panied only by an aide-de-camp and a servant. On his approach to Brockville Ogle R. Gowan raised a black flag, but there was no disturbance, and the Governor was well received. At Toronto he received a most enthusiastic reception from the leading citizens, who crowded to the wharf to welcome him. There was an attempted riot by a few crazy Orangemen led by one John Wilson, who kept a drinking place and a candy shop on Church street, a little north of where the public library is now. I came down to Toronto from Hamilton the day following and would not have known there had been any disturbance, only that I met a printer that I knew by the name of Ben Patterson, who took me into Wilson's place; and I should judge from what I saw and heard there that that was the head-quarters of the disorderly and the insulters of the Governor. I missed from that gathering one Burton Campbell, a printer, who was half, if not wholly, crazy, over political matters. He was an Orangeman, of course, and was capable of putting sentences together. He had gotten out a printed proclamation which was largely circulated and posted up, summoning the cohorts of disorder to assemble at the wharf and mob and maltreat the Governor. Only a few persons responded to this rebellious call. They pelted the carriage with bad eggs, but did little damage, and the offenders were arrested by the police when caught at their dirty work. Many of those assembled in Wilson's place next day, were those who bailed out the offenders. The incendiary document calling the rioters together was headed, "To your Tents, O Israel!" Poor Burton Campbell! I knew him well afterwards. He was a peculiar looking genius, his remarkable facial feature being a short, overhanging upper lip, which made a peculiar impediment in his speech. He became connected with several Conservative newspapers in different parts of Upper Canada afterwards, and ended his days in the Hotel Dieu of Ottawa, or some other Catholic charitable institution in that city.

Those were the days of the disloyalty of the loyalists. There were annexationist manifestos issued by the Tories of Montreal. There were annexationist meetings held in different localities. The Tory press was violent. A Hamilton gentleman that I knew well, named Hugh B. Wilson, came down to Toronto and started an annexationist weekly paper named "The Independent." It was a poor little thing, but had an editorial staff of three to do its work. There was Mr. Wilson himself. He was a genius, good-natured gentleman, a high-toned citizen and lawyer. He was a very distinguished looking man—tall, long visaged, dark whiskered and swarthy, with kindly hazel eyes, and I think, had something of a lisp in his voice. In Hamilton he occupied the same offices with John Sheridan Hogan, on Hughson street a little north of Main. His family was one of the leading U. E. L. families of Upper Canada, and in the old days before the union of the provinces, his father was speaker of the Upper Canada Parliament. His appearance always put me in mind of the picture of Lord Lovell in the children's pictorial story books of those days. The two other men employed on The Independent to "make copy" was one named Price, of whom I knew nothing, and one Izard, an Englishman, who was addicted to the bottle, and a hanger-on of newspaper offices. The publication of the paper began in October if I am not mistaken, and came to an end in April, 1850. There did not appear to be many sympathizers with the paper in Toronto, and it had only one prominent merchant supporter, whose name was Brown, I think an American.

When Lord Elgin visited here he put up at Mrs. Ella's private hotel, where the Rosin House is now situ-

ated; but when he came here for permanent residence his home was Elmsley Villa, afterwards known as Government House, at the south-west corner of King and Simcoe streets. Here his youngest daughter, Lady Thurlow, was born, and Lord Bruce, his son, afterwards Governor-General of India, was a baby.

In June, 1849, an act was passed by the Imperial Parliament that Lord Elgin and Mr. Baldwin appreciated very much. It lowered the freight on wheat and timber and increased Canadian profits very much, reviving somewhat the province's prosperity. To restore credits, increase trade, develop industries, increase immigration, and induce contentment, was now the business that the government had set before it. But the most essential requisite to be accomplished was a treaty of reciprocity with the United States.

The year 1850, when Toronto was made the seat of Government, evinced a coming disruption of parties. The Globe newspaper was then a tri-weekly and was made the administrative organ. The Examiner, under the editorial control of Mr. Charles Lindsay, was a reform newspaper, but displaying republican tendencies; The North American was started to advocate advanced reform ideas by William Macdougall; The Mirror, a Catholic Liberal paper, published by Chas. Donlevy, was also showing a tendency the same way, but was kept in control by Matthew Ryan, an attaché of Mr. Hincks' office; and again there was "Mackenzie's Message." From the tendency of prevailing thought a disruption seemed inevitable. The Conservative or Tory papers were The Colonist, a daily; The Patriot, by Ogle R. Gowan, which had been removed here from Brockville, a daily; The United Empire, edited by John Sheridan Hogan, a weekly. The ablest of the Conservative papers, however, was the Hamilton Spectator, which had been made a daily, and was edited by Robert Smiley, a printer.

The member of parliament for Toronto was a Conservative. He was Henry Sherwood, whose father had been a chief justice for Upper Canada. He aimed at leadership, but was narrow and peevish, and of course was high in the councils of the Family Compact. There was another Bolton here besides "Bill of the Grange"—Bolton of the Castle—who was an advanced reformer, whose full name was Henry John Bolton, and who represented Norfolk county in the Legislature. He frequently attacked the ministry, but more especially Mr. Hincks, who was his particular aversion. He was one of the earliest of the "Clear Grits." I understood, however, that his reputation as a public man was "shady."

The original name of the Clear Grits was "Calebites." It was from the following circumstances: The administration had made the member for Halton, one John Wetenhall, a member of the Cabinet, but he was defeated for re-election by one Caleb Hopkins, who professed the advanced Liberal ideas, and at first all who agreed with him and Peter Perry, a former reform leader, got that name.

When Parliament met in Toronto on the 14th of May, 1850, a vigorous debate took place on the address, during which the attacks on the Government were led by the republicans and sore-heads. Col. Prince, a leading loyalist in 1837, strange to say, moved the adoption of a petition in favor of independence. This was rejected by a vote of fifty-seven to seventeen. Mr. Baldwin brought himself into disfavor with a large portion of his party by opposing legislation on the clergy reserves—one seventh of the public lands of the province for the support of a Protestant clergy, while Mr. Drummond, an Irish Catholic of Montreal, spoke in favor of their secularization.

On Twelfth Night, Lord Elgin had a large party at Elmsley House. Among those present were Chancellor and Mrs. Blake, Judge and Mrs. Sullivan, Baldwin, Hincks, etc. Notwithstanding the split in the Reform party, Ministers went triumphantly through the session and passed a large number of valuable bills, including a jury bill, a just assessment bill, a division court bill, and an election law. They dealt with the extension of municipal institutions, university reform, post office reform, court of chancery, resolutions regarding the clergy reserves, a public road act, a railway act, a school fund act, bank and medical incorporation, the promotion of the exchange of products between the provinces of British North America, and many other measures of great value, such as had never before emanated from a Canadian legislature.

In 1851 Parliament met in May. The most notable thing of this year's session was the retirement of Mr. Baldwin from the ministry. William Lyon Mackenzie had been elected to parliament for Haldimand County, against George Brown, and introduced a bill to abolish the court of chancery, which Mr. Baldwin opposed. This defeat saddened him and he thought there was nothing else proper for him to do but resign the leadership. There was great regret evinced at the act. I remember The Mirror, with which I was then connected, had a very feeling leading article on the subject, written by Samuel B. McCoy, the editor. And

I remember old Captain Emelius Irving coming up to The Mirror office and saying: "If Baldwin wanted to be a reform leader he should stand by reform principles." This very same year the defection of The Globe took place, and the anti-Catholic campaign may be said to have begun. At the next ensuing election Mr. Baldwin was beaten in North York by a man named Hartman. Great as he was, sincere as he was, affective as he was, Baldwin began to lag behind the party that he had successfully led and had to pay the penalty. The Reform party had passed into a Radical party, and Mr. Baldwin from a Reformer to a Liberal-Conservative. His heart was broken, like Daniel O'Connell's in 1847. The session was brought to a close on the 20th of August. Lord Elgin was able to congratulate the House on the work that had been accomplished.

WILLIAM HALLEY.  
 (To be Continued.)

**Hon. John Costigan**

The oldest member of Parliament in Canada, the Hon. John Costigan, will be known in future as Hon. Senator Costigan. His public career has been one in which the element of greatness has largely entered. For forty years he has sat in the House as the people's representative in Canada, and to the Irish cause he has ever been a telling and friendly force. A statesman of the ideal type, he has ever been staunch to the principles of Catholicity, and he is admired by all classes and creeds for his upright character and many sterling virtues.

### Funeral of Bishop Decelles of St. Hyacinthe

The funeral obsequies of his Lordship, Mgr. Maxime Decelles, Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, were of a most imposing character. The entire city turned out to do honor to the departed bishop. Signs of mourning were everywhere seen and the Cathedral in which the remains were laid in state displayed immense scrolls bearing appropriate inscriptions such as "Beati Mortui qui in Domino moriuntur" and "Ego sum resurrectio et vita." The funeral mass of requiem was sung by Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal, assisted by Mgr. Moulin as deacon and Mgr. Damase Robert of Fall River, Mass., as sub-deacon. The sermon was preached by Bishop Brunault, who spoke throughout with profound emotion. In presence of the open tomb, said the Bishop, which I see ready to gather in the mortal remains of the most eminent, most esteemed and most venerable Mgr. Maxime Decelles. We have need of faith and hope for the future. In mourning him I mourn more than a friend, more than a benefactor, more than a brother. I mourn a part of myself. And you, faithful parishioners of St. Hyacinthe, and of this diocese, you have assuredly lost not alone a benefactor, but a devoted friend, a father infinitely good, a pastor and a bishop who was the glory of the Canadian episcopate. Behold, how cruel death has been! Beside the citizens of St. Hyacinthe representatives of many religious orders, civic representatives, a detachment of the 84th Regiment and about 400 bishops and priests from the diocese and a distance, took part in the last sad rites. The music of the mass and during the office was sung by a mixed choir of 75 members, men and boys. The uniformed corps, La Garde de Salaberry of St. Hyacinthe, attended during the mass. The body of the Bishop was laid to rest under the choir of the Cathedral.

**Hon. Edward Blake is ill.**

London, July 13.—The Hon. Edward Blake is confined by illness to his residence in London, and is forbidden by his doctor to resume attendance in the House of Commons for the remainder of the session. The Canadian Associated Press understands he is likely to leave for Canada for the benefit of his health before the end of July.

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