

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1921.

THE CANDIDATES.

Tomorrow the voters of Canada must make their decision as to which of the three parties is to be entrusted with the reins of government. In the City of St. John there are six candidates representing the different parties. The Hon. J. B. M. Baxter and Dr. MacLaren are the candidates of the party led by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen. The Standard throughout this campaign has tried to avoid personalities. At the same time a criticism of a candidate's public acts or qualifications for the position he expects to occupy is justifiable.

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter.

In Hon. Mr. Baxter the National Liberal-Conservative party have a candidate of whom it is justly proud. For many years he represented the City at the Council Board. He has been City Solicitor and filled the office most satisfactorily. He was Attorney General and Leader of the Opposition and in both capacities even his most bitter political opponents are loud in their praise of his legislative activities. He is an outstanding figure in the legal profession. He is one of Canada's foremost orators. In a word, he combines all the qualities that make a man a leader of men. His broad vision, sane judgment, his total lack of bias or prejudice, his thorough grasp and mastery of the great national and political issues and questions of the day assures us that the Hon. J. B. M. Baxter will be a worthy successor of the great mentor that St. John has sent to Ottawa as its representatives.

Dr. Murray MacLaren.

Doctor Murray MacLaren is a distinct acquisition to the political life of this City and Province. A man high up in his profession, he can be relied on to make as great a success of his political career as he did of his profession.

While he never ran an election before, he always took an active and deep interest in the welfare of this City and Province. A man of Doctor MacLaren's ability and erudition cannot help but make a success of whatever he undertakes. His standing in his profession alone, will make him a man to whom the party will turn to on any question of importance, and his nature and sound judgment will be always relied upon. What, however, endears Dr. MacLaren to the people of St. John above everything else, is his unselfish devotion during the trying times of the war. It must have been a great source of satisfaction to the parents and relatives of the boys at the front to know that Dr. MacLaren was over there with them, and many the boy, no doubt, has to thank Dr. MacLaren for his safe return to health and his people. His memory will live in the hearts of the people of this City and Province as long as devotion to duty, self-sacrifice, unselfishness, love of country and his fellow-men are qualities that are held in high esteem.

Some of the Other Candidates

Among the other candidates are H. R. McLellan and Dr. Broderick. Very fine men, no doubt, but not quite the calibre that the rest of the Province or Canada would look to to represent a City of the size and importance of St. John. Unfortunately Mr. McLellan's public career has not always given satisfaction to the people who elected him. As Commissioner he was recalled, and can hardly claim to appeal to the labor organizations as they took the first steps to bring about his recall. He has not the confidence of the business men, as they are a little sceptical of his judgment and wisdom in matters of finance. He is inclined to be rash, and give snap judgments. As secretary of the Commercial Club he did nothing out of the ordinary, except to kill the usefulness of the club as an organization to promote the objects for which it was founded.

The war veterans would hardly trust him to look after their interests evidenced by a letter of a returned man published in last Saturday's Standard. When he was Warden of the County, out of personal pique, he prevented the soldiers getting their Christmas comforts. His recent pilgrimage to Ottawa on railway matters did not enhance his reputation. As a matter of fact, a Liberal said: "It is a pity we did not leave Harry McLellan home."

As to Dr. Broderick, it is another case where a man's attitude on a national question is apt to ruin his whole political career. While Dr. MacLaren was in France, Dr. Broderick ran an election in St. John in opposition to the very principle for which Dr. MacLaren was giving of his best. "Brutus is an honorable man," said Mark Anthony. No doubt Broderick and McLellan are honorable men. They have hardly exhibited, however, in their public life or public utterances those qualities which would justify the citizens of St. John and Albert in sending them to Ottawa as their representatives. To find a man of Cabinet rank the Liberals would have to go outside of the candidates at present in the field.

As to the Farmer candidate and the Labor candidate, while The Standard has nothing but respect for them personally, it cannot see where the country will benefit from the class movement of which they are supporters.

CANADA MUST SETTLE ITS TARIFF BEFORE IT CAN RECOVER ITS STRIDE.

Every now and then a young country has to take stock and plan for the future. In the present campaign, the electors of Canada are faced with one supreme issue. They are asked to decide which of the rival fiscal policies put before them give most hope of the up building of the Dominion. Only politicians of the basest sort have been guilty of the treason of attempting to obscure that issue. Tomorrow's election is a business conference and there is no place for any self-styled leadership which will not treat it as such.

The Agrarians of the West may be foolish but they are at least frank. They somehow figure that they could turn honest pennies if they had free access to the already overstocked markets of the United States; and they are prepared to strip away every safeguard to Canada's home market on the chance that they may gain a very doubtful quid pro quo for their own group. The hope may be vain and the desire may be as shortsighted as it is selfish. But therein is the challenge which the Prairies have issued to the older Provinces. A great percentage of the Western Agrarians want free trade. It is impossible for any other party to make an alliance with them except on the basis of a headlong revision of the tariff downwards. It is the fault of Hon. W. L. King's Western lieutenants that they fail-

ed to make an alliance. They offered the price; they proclaimed that the aims of the Westerners and of the Agrarians were identical. Their offer was spurned. But that does not at all disprove the fact that the Liberal policy in the West is a declination of the tariff.

Similar talk in the East would ruin the Liberal Party. Life in the older Provinces is more complex, and no leader would dare sponsor the slaughter of urban industry which Mr. King's lieutenants advocate beyond the Great Lakes. So the Liberal leader tried to dodge the issue. He has prattled about the constitution which he pretends was in perilled because the Government failed to look to the leader of the Opposition for orders. He has talked about the transportation problems, putting forward the daft plea that the people who caused the wreck are peculiarly fitted to conduct the repairs. But only under a cloud of vague phrases has he dared to approach the tariff question. And then so timorously that not one industry in Canada is able to guess how a Mackenzie King administration would treat it.

In every Province but one are concerned, Mr. King has tried to enlist support for his leadership by tricking the electorate into various beliefs a sto what he would do if placed in charge of affairs. In his speech at West Toronto at the opening of the campaign, he showed very clearly that he had no definite idea of what he would do, and he has repeated this sort of plea during every speech since. All he asked was to be handed the reins of power. His attitude throughout is well expressed in the words of the old song: "I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way."

According to the prophets of the Liberal press, this sort of a campaign is believed to be good for some thirty seats outside of Quebec. In that Province—where every attempt is being made to keep old grudges alive—a clean sweep is foretold. In other words thirty constituencies are expected by Mr. King's managers to vote for his fiscal policy whatever it is, while sixty Quebec ridings will vote for something even more mysterious entitled "Revenge."

Even if these high and haughty hopes were realized, the most that the King press agents are bold enough to claim is that the Hon. W. L. M. King will enter the next House with less than a hundred followers of whom less than one-third will support him in his attempt to Americanize Canadian industries.

For Quebec has always been protectionist at heart. Before every business man it dangles the alleged advantages of locating within its boundaries. Its aspirations are bound up in the promotion of industry; it covets the manufacturing supremacy of Canada. Thus the hope of the Liberal leader is based upon the chance of securing a complete Quebec "bloc" of followers who would be infinitely more likely to oppose than support him on any fiscal issue raised in Parliament.

Hon. W. L. M. King cannot be frank and the two wings of the party he leads cannot be united. Every vote for a King candidate is a vote for confusion. Canada is anxious for a post-war re-adjustment under some settled policy. The Conservative Party believes that the welfare of the country can be best advanced through the protection of its industries from foreign competition. The Agrarian Party bases its policy upon sweeping tariff reductions culminating in Free Trade. The electorate is asked to choose. Its time is wasted and its intelligence insulted by a political contentions whose contribution to such a vital campaign is a farcical attempt to sit upon two stools. The elimination of Mr. King is necessary in order that the paramount issue of the tariff be definitely settled. And until it is settled there is no reasonable hope that this country will get back in its stride.

THE PURCHASE OF THE STANDARD.

The Telegraph, Friday:—

"Who is going to tell the inside story of the resurrection of the 'Standard' newspaper and the subsequent appointment of Colonel Black to the Senate of Canada? Will The Standard tell it, or will it merely 'applaud' the appointment as one made because Colonel Black's virtues, 'aside altogether from his sacrifices in connection with the party newspaper, were too great to be overlooked by a Premier and a Minister of Customs to whom all things are pure?'"

There is practically no story to tell, and what story there is in quite commonplace. It was just an ordinary business transaction; The Standard was for sale, and Col. Black bought it and used his own money to pay for it.

Unfortunately for her, Col. Black, Mr. Baxter is only Minister of Customs and as such has no patronage at his disposal and consequently no contracts to give away. Had he been Minister of Public Works now, he might have tipped Col. Black off to buy a dredge at once, and have it hovering somewhere round the coast where some shoal dredging could be quickly done. He might even have suggested the Gaspereaux River in Kent Co., or the entrance to Maquapit Lake on the St. John River, or perchance he could have got some little work for it right in the harbor. The fact that tenders would need to be called for would not have mattered; Col. Black could have undertaken to do the work at the figure offered in the lowest tender, if perchance any were received. He might have got 90 cents a cubic yard for it, too, although 20 cents is the ordinary rate. By this means he might have made \$34,000 from partially dredging the Gaspereaux, \$48,000 from Maquapit Lake and \$16,000 from the harbor, with this advantage, that he needn't have finished the work at all. He could have left off just as soon as he had done enough at each place to make all the money he needed to complete the purchase of the paper.

Of course by using his own money to buy The Standard, instead of having to get accommodation from the Bank, Col. Black did not have to be bound down not to allow the paper to publish a single line on any political subject until the loan to the bank had been paid off. In that event, too, there would not have been the urgent need to get the dredging done with such haste, so that the Bank could be satisfied. Had Mr. Baxter been Minister of Public Works, he might have kept the contract in his own office in St. John, and have hinted to the officials of his Department not to look too closely into matters, but that he personally would vouch for the fairness and regularity of the deal. He might also have awarded Col. Black a dredging contract in the harbor at \$5 a cubic yard, where another dredging company had tendered at \$4.90. Who knows?

Have The Telegraph and The Times ever heard of newspapers being purchased under circumstances at all like the foregoing?

Dr. Baxter did actually make the remark at the Opera House meeting that if the Premier did wear a twenty-five cent tie, it was at least paid for.

Mr. McLellan is reported as stating in one of his Albert County meetings that out of a sense of public duty he was giving up a \$7,000 position as secretary of the Commercial Club to enter the political contest. Can you beat it?

Dr. Baxter has been a member of the Government just two months, and already he has caused accommodation to be provided in the West Side sheds for 650 cattle, so that greater business may be brought to this port for shipment. Also he has arranged for the D. S. C. R. to be located in this city. These are only the beginnings of what the Minister will do if the people only stand behind him.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Tariff Against English Girls.
(Los Angeles Times.)
Lots of English women are coming to this country. If an English girl can raise enough money to pay her transportation and get by the barrier she is glad to take a chance on America. She figures that her chance of securing a husband is about 100 per cent, better than in the homeland. In England the women now greatly outnumber the men, and so the prospects of securing a mate are not good. When they reach this country they begin the pursuit at once. What do the American damsels think of an invasion of this kind? First thing we know they will be asking a prohibitive tariff protection against the pauper brides of Europe. Some of our home girls find it hard enough to find a suitable mate mate without having to compete with the rest of the universe. A tariff would be a wise thing, to their manner of thinking.

Hasn't Seen the Free Trade Plank.
But—
"Progressives are called free traders—I haven't seen the free trade plank in the platform. I don't think it exists. But the Progressive party stands for carrying out its pledges, and I'll tell you that they will be carried out."
—Premier Drury, at the Drill Hall.

Let us recall what the Progressive platform pledges:—

1. The platform calls for an immediate and substantial all-round reduction of duties.

2. The platform calls for the total abolition of duties on a large proportion of our manufactures.

3. The platform calls for complete free trade with Great Britain within five years.

Premier Drury says the above platform will be carried out. It should be carried out, it means national ruin for Canada.

It will not be carried out. Even if the farmers were to gain power it will not be carried out in its entirety.

Premier Drury is dishonest in saying so, for he knows in his heart that it will not be carried out in its entirety.

But if the farmers were to gain power, enough of it would be carried out to cause great disaster to this country.

"Give It Up Forever."
In 1911, while urging the advocacy of Congress for a Reciprocity Treaty between Canada and the United States, under date of April 27 of that year, Premier Taft took upon himself somewhat unfortunately to remark:—"The bond uniting the Dominion of Canada and the Mother Country is light and almost imperceptible. I have said that this is a critical time in the solution of the question of reciprocity. It is critical, because unless it is now decided favorably to reciprocity it is exceedingly probable that no such opportunity will ever again come to the United States. The forces which are at work in England and in Canada to separate her by a Chinese wall from the United States, and to make her part of an imperial commercial band reaching from England around the world to England again by a system of preferential tariffs, will exert an impetus from the rejection of this treaty, and if we would have reciprocity, with all the advantages that I have described, and that I strongly and earnestly believe will follow its adoption, we must take it now or give it up forever."

Forces other even than those of which Mr. Taft then dreamed were, as it happened, already at work to make Canada indeed part of an Imperial "band" reaching "from England round the world to England again." The bond uniting the Dominion of Canada and the Mother Country, which bond the President of the United States thought so "light" as to be "almost imperceptible," in three short years was to prove itself a bond that not all the military power of the most militaristic powers on earth could move or break—a bond of affection, association, intellect, resolution and courage wrapped fivefold about the heart of every loyal Canadian.

Only one word of all that Mr. Taft had given to Congress on that far-off April afternoon, has since been proven true. That word was where he said of reciprocity to the people of the United States: "It is exceedingly probable that no such opportunity will ever come again; we must take it now or give it up forever!"

The Joke!
Mr. Herlihy was reading the jokes in his paper and pondering over each one. At last he chuckled as he found one that was clear as crystal, to his thinking.

"Listen to this, Cely, dear," he said to Mrs. Herlihy. "An Irishman was asked by his wife where she's better put the key to her trunk, when she was starting out on a journey. 'Put it inside before you lock it,' said the husband. 'Ah! That's a good joke.'"

"Seems to me it's no joke at all, but only foolishness," said Mrs. Herlihy serenely, without removing her gaze from a large hole which she was darning.

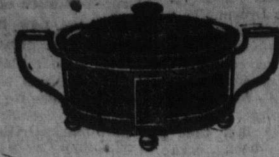
"A-ha! But you've missed the point, my dear," cried Mr. Herlihy. "When she arrived at her destination it's a shilling she'd have to pay for a new key. A-ha!"

It is rumored about the city that one of the reasons why the Hon. Dr. Pugsley refused the St. John-Albert nomination is the candidacy of Dr. Broderick. Could Dr. Broderick shed any light on the situation?

It may interest the blue-ruin prophets to know that already two trains of approximately fifty-five cars have arrived at St. John with grain and that two other trains similarly loaded are on the way. The elevators here will have all they can do to take care of the grain that is due here.

Did Mr. McLellan give up his \$7,000 a year job, or did the job give up him? And isn't it a fact that it was only because he was all through with the Commercial Club, and was looking round for something else, that he decided to take a chance at \$4,000 at Ottawa? H. R. has played many parts in his life, but he has never played the fool to the extent of voluntarily giving up one thing till he'd safely landed another.

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- 2. MURRAY F. 75 Coburg S
- 3. WM. P. B. D. 86 Orange S
- 4. HARRY S. 139 Germain
- 5. FREDERICK M. 137 Broad S
- 6. WM. M. C. F. German B

Obituary
Herbert E. Creighton. The death of Herbert E. Creighton occurred in the General Public Hospital Saturday morning, after a long illness. He was the third son of Samuel and the late Mary Creighton, and was born at Sussex, but had lived at Silver Falls for the greater part of his life. His wife, who was Miss Ella Wetmore, died some years ago. He is survived by two children, three brothers and one sister. The brothers are Frederick

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