

London Advertiser.
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 LONDON, FRIDAY, MARCH 17.

Constitutional Cocksureness.

There is a note of cocksureness in the majority of the speeches, interviews, resolutions and newspaper articles on the school question that must be amusing, if not exasperating, to the constitutional lawyer, who appreciates the difficulties with which the British North America Act bristles from beginning to end. Unlike the mother country, we have a written constitution—a federal system demands it—and the great men who framed it, most of them lawyers, all of them parliamentarians, were reasonably sure that they had covered the ground. Within four years a supplementary act had to be passed to clear up misunderstandings raised by the admission of Manitoba. Then came the great battles between the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government. Scarcely a year has passed since the B. N. A. Act has been before the courts. The people of Canada are warring over it today. The last word concerning it has not been said, perhaps never will be said. Human ingenuity never yet framed a contract—the B. N. A. Act is one into which human ingenuity could not read various meanings. The United States has a written constitution and the men who drafted it, the greatest minds of the republic, doubtless thought they had completed their work, but the supreme court has had as much to do with shaping the constitution as the authors of that instrument. Every written constitution is developed by a process of interpretation. The Northwest school question is one of interpretation, some taking one view of certain clauses, some another view. In this case, in the Manitoba school case, in the contests between Oliver Mowat and Sir John Macdonald, we see statesmen and lawyers, some of them constitutional experts, placing opposite constructions upon the same words and adducing arguments which have even divided the courts. There is nothing presumptuous in a layman interpreting the constitution for himself, but he should bear in mind that there is room for honest difference of opinion, and he should not attribute motives to those who are not in agreement with him. Take the Confederation Amendment Act of 1871. The preamble is as follows:

Whereas, doubts have been entertained respecting the powers of the Parliament of Canada to establish provinces in territories admitted, or which may hereafter be admitted into the Dominion of Canada, and to provide for the representation of such provinces in the House of Commons, and it is expedient to remove such doubts, and to vest such powers in the said Parliament:

This preamble has a very promising ring. Parliament was then contemplating the future erection of provinces in the Northwest Territories—the situation that has come to pass today. The intention of this amendment and the law to clear up doubt arising out of the B. N. A. Act, what did Parliament enact? It enacted this clause:

The Parliament of Canada may from time to time establish new provinces in any territories forming part of the time being part of the Dominion of Canada, but not in any province thereof, and may, at the time of such establishment, make provision for the constitution and administration of any such province, and for the passing of laws for the peace, order and good government of such province and for its representation in the said Parliament.

The average man, reading this clause, would say that it gave the Parliament of Canada plenary power to frame a constitution for the new Northwest provinces on the lines which Parliament chose to lay down. Instead of clearing up doubts this act of 1871 appears to have multiplied them. In 1886, another act to amend the British North America Act was ratified by the Imperial Parliament in which it was declared that the act of 1871 and the original B. N. A. Act of 1867 must be "construed together." The B. N. A. Act of 1867 (section 93), says that each province the Legislature thereof "may exclusively make laws in relation to education," but provides in subsection 1 of section 93, that nothing in such laws "shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools, which any class of persons have by law in the province at the union." Premier Haultain, of the Northwest Territories, in his open letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, takes the ground that sub-section 1 of section 93 refers only to school laws in established provinces which enter Confederation, and not to the Territories which had school laws imposed upon them by the Dominion Parliament in the Northwest Territories Act of 1875. He says:

"It is an attempt to create a provincial retroactivity. It declares that territorial school laws passed under the restrictions imposed by the Northwest Territories Act to be Provincial school laws. It clothes laws imposed by the Federal Parliament with all the attributes of laws voluntarily made by a free province."

Mr. Haultain's view was not that of George Brown, Edward Blake, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Alexander Campbell and virtually every member of the Dominion Parliament, who contributed to the debate on the Northwest Territories Act in 1875. Mr. Brown, who strongly opposed the separate school clause of that act, emphasized the maintenance of separate schools in the Territories for all time. This opinion, affirmed by other speakers, was not controverted by a single member of either House. The late Dalton McCarthy, an opponent of separate schools,

shared this view so late as 1894, when he said in the House of Commons: "I want to draw the attention of the House to a very important provision. By this legislation we are really riveting upon the people of the Northwest the separate school system for all time. . . . We insist by the clause of the act of 1875 that they shall have separate schools; and if we continue insisting that that system shall prevail up to the time we create provinces in the Northwest, then the application of the first subsection of section 93 of the B. N. A. Act, and the result will be that in the new provinces those who have enjoyed what is spoken of as a right or privilege with respect to denominational schools would be able to say: The constitution given to this province by the Dominion Government does not permit any interference with any right or privilege which we enjoyed prior to the time of the creation of this province."

Dr. Sproule at the time dissented from this opinion, and Mr. McCarthy repeated that if Parliament did not repeal the law of 1875 before granting provincial autonomy to the Territories, the system of separate schools would be perpetuated. Mr. McCarthy was one of the greatest constitutional authorities in Canada, and his conception of the intent of section 93 of the British North America Act is that which is held by many others whose legal opinion is entitled to respect. If the agitation against the school clauses of the autonomy bill is to be based on constitutional grounds, let the question be argued in a judicial spirit, and let those who take opposing views remember that in the past able minds have differed over many questions arising out of the organic law of the Dominion. The present difficulty will not be solved by appeals to prejudice or passion, but by an appeal to reason. Let it be viewed in the "dry light" of the law.

Linevitch is welcome to his job.

Poor old Kuropatkin!

This is Kuropatkin's birthday, and a nice present the Czar gave him.

Kuropatkin has found that fighting Turks and fighting Japs are two different propositions.

Russia's rotten Government is blaming Kuropatkin for its own sins of omission and commission.

The Japs have no cavalry to speak of, but the infantry seem to be mounted on fairly lively legs.

By all means let's have Lord Roberts for the opening of the Western Fair. Little Bobs is the biggest attraction in the British Empire.

One of the Niagara power companies is preparing to do business in Western Ontario, and the power question may become a live one in London before the year is out.

France is Russia's ally and will show herself Russia's best friend if she refuses to advance more money. That would bring the war to an end sooner than the Japs can find it.

Cockshutt, M. P. of Bradford, wants the British preference repealed. He poses as a great imperialist, but he doesn't like imperialism that affects the pocket nerve.

If anything can add to Russia's degradation, it is the degrading manner in which a degraded bureaucracy has tried to degrade Russia's greatest general.

The Intercolonial Railway may get running powers over the Canada Atlantic Railway and thus reach out to the Georgian Bay. This would make the Government road a lively competitor for the grain traffic.

Mr. Leech, the Liberal organizer in Manitoba, is well known in this neighborhood, where he was visiting when the voters' list scandal was fabricated by the Tory press. Those who know Mr. Leech will say that he is the soul of honor. They were not surprised when the grand jury decreed no bill.

The Imperial decree which degrades Kuropatkin is utterly brutal in its wording. Kuropatkin has performed prodigies of valor and skill in other campaigns. A man can do but his best, and there is every evidence that Kuropatkin has given his country his best in Manchuria as elsewhere. Perhaps no other general, even a Japanese, could have done better than he has with his moral and material resources.

Wedding Superstitions.

[Pittsburg Dispatch.] The bridegroom who carries a military horseshoe in his pocket will always be lucky. The bride who dreams of fairies on the night before her wedding will be thrice blessed. Never give a telegram to a bride or bridegroom on the way to the church. It is a sure omen of bad luck. Marriages on board ship are considered unlucky. If you can't be married on dry land remain unwed. The finding of a spider on the wedding gown by the bride is considered a sure token of happiness to come. If during the marriage ceremony the wedding ring should fall down, the bride's fate will not be an enviable one.

If a bride should by chance see a coffin as she starts off her wedding, she should order the driver of the carriage to turn back and start over again.

Wedding Presents.

[London Punch.] As soon as May had named the day she was invited to the wedding of the late Mr. and Mrs. May. We were all very much interested in the list of presents which would be sent. In language far from pleasant, "Confound it! I shall have to buy that dress!" said one of the guests. Then boy and man in cart and van and motor car came driving. With gifts galore, and more and more. And still they kept arriving.

"Seal Brand" Coffee may cost a little more, per pound, than the "cheap" kinds, but its extra strength and peerless quality make it cheapest in the end, not mentioning the greater satisfaction.

In 1 and 2 pound tins, sealed.

"Seal Brand" Coffee
 Chase & Sanborn, - Montreal

BABBLING CAUSE OF RUSS DEFEATS

Czar's Army Acts Like a Blustering Yokel.

COULDN'T GAUGE JAP PLANS

Russian Writer at the Front Says Stupidity and Incompetence Brought on Disaster.

Secret of Greatness.

[New York Sun.] There's just one thing you must acquire if you would set the world afire. And that's to know the thing to do. To make the world run after you.

Happiness.

[London Daily News.] I followed far over heath and desert land. The fairly gleaming of a distant light. A shining lure, that beckoned as a hand. And with fair promises pierced the host. O'er rugged stones, and marsh, and slimy clay. And clinging tanglings of the thorny briar. But still the dancing light shone far away. And at my feet lay stagnant waste and mire.

Wearily I paused, and turning in the track. Glanced where the long, bleak, barren hills declined. And lo! athwart the trailing, ragged wreck. The wizard beacon glimmered far behind.

Always.

[Fort Worth Record.] "When is the proper time to ask a girl for a kiss?" "After you have got the kiss."

No Doubt.

[Nicholas Star.] Probably Nicholas of Russia would be a happier man today if he were working a free grant of 160 acres in New Ontario.

Will He?

[Brandon Examiner.] Will Premier Whitney repeal the succession dues, the tax on corporations, and hand back the control of liquor licenses to the municipalities? Well, hardly. These are good enough for him to talk about while in opposition, but are not likely to be attempted by anyone who is entrusted with the responsibility of office.

The Head of the House.

[Smart Set.] "Do you think she will make a good wife?" "More likely she will make him a good husband."

INTERESTING LETTER

WRITTEN BY A NOTABLE WOMAN

Mrs. Sarah Kellogg, of Denver, Color. Bearer of the Woman's Relief Corps, Sends Thanks to Mrs. Pinkham.

The following letter was written by Mrs. Kellogg, of 1628 Lincoln Ave., Denver, Colo., to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass.:

Dear Mrs. Pinkham:—For five years I was troubled with a great mental depression. I was unable to attend to my house work, and life became a burden to me. I was confined for days to my bed, lost my appetite, my courage and all hope.

"I could not bear to think of an operation, and in my distress I tried every remedy which I thought would be of any use to me, and I was utterly disappointed. I was now in a state of great mental depression. I was unable to attend to my house work, and life became a burden to me. I was confined for days to my bed, lost my appetite, my courage and all hope."

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THE CHURCH CENSUS

The Preparatory Work Being Pushed Along—Success Assured.

Mr. D. A. McDermid, secretary of the church census movement, was asked this morning how the work was progressing, and he said:

"Everything is moving along splendidly. The churches are coming in by the hundreds. Committees are looking after the work assigned to them, and everything indicates that we will be in good shape for taking the census on April 7."

"Do you anticipate any difficulty in getting the information asked for?" "Not at all. In an intelligent community of English-speaking people like this, it would be very strange indeed if information was refused. Where there is a large foreign population I can quite understand that it might be otherwise, but not here. The information sought is so reasonable that no one will object to giving it. The results are sure to be beneficial."

Among the churches which have sent in lists of enumerators for taking the religious census on April 7 are: New St. James Presbyterian, 21 Knox Presbyterian, 12; Methodist, 15; Baptist, 4; Episcopalian, 15; Methodist, 16; Richmond Street Methodist, 16; Kensington Methodist, 4; Southern Congregational, 8.

Handsomeness Table Linens Doilies.



Twenty Dozen Teneriffe Round Doilies, 6x6. Only 5c each.
 Mexican Drawn-Work Doilies, square, 6x6, at 10c each; 6x6, 15c; 9x9, 20c each; 12x12, 30c each; 18x18, 40c each.

Centerpieces.

Centerpieces, Mexican work, fancy corner stitch, 18x18, 55c each; 24x24, \$1.15 each; 30x30, \$1.60 each.

Tea Cloths.

Hemstitched Tea Cloths, 36x36, selling at \$1.25, \$1.32, \$1.60 and \$2.25.
 Irish Hand-Embroidered Tea Cloths, 36x36, selling at \$1.10, \$1.50, \$1.95, \$2.50 and \$3.50.

Ladies' and Children's Underwear.

Ladies' Fleece Cotton Vests and Drawers, only 25c each.
 Ladies' Heavy Fleece Cotton Vests, each, 35c
 Special line Ladies' Pure Silk Vests, in colors, pink, fawn, yellow and black, sleeveless and short sleeves, regular \$1.25, for, each, 63c
 Ladies' Cotton Vests (summer weight), with long sleeves, each, 20c and 25c
 Girls' Black Equestrian Tights, knee length, all sizes, from a pair, 58c to \$1.00

Ladies' Union Vests and Drawers, each, 50c
 Ladies' Fine Wool Merino Vests, in cream and natural, all long and short sleeves, from, up, 60c
 Children's Fine Merino Vests and Drawers, all sizes, from, up, 40c
 Children's Fine Wool Merino Vests and Drawers, all sizes, from, up, 60c
 Children's Fleece Vests and Drawers, from, up, 20c
 Girls' Black Equestrian Tights, ankle length, at per pair, 50c to 85c

New Neckwear

Taffeta Stocks in black, white and colors. Only 25c
 Chiffon stocks, newest designs, price, each 50c to \$1.50.
 Protection Collars of embroidered linen, in black, white and colors.
 "Buster Brown" Collars with ties to match.

Silks.

Black Silk Coats will be very much in demand this season. A large assortment of the very latest effects.
 Black Corded Silk, 85c to \$2.50.
 Black Radzimer, \$2.00 to \$2.75.
 Black Bengaline, 90c to \$1.50.
 Black Taffeta, 50c to \$1.25.
 Black Crepe, \$1.10 and \$1.25; Black Satin de Lyon, \$1.75, Black Victoria Cord, \$2.25.

Mantle-Making Department

Our Dress and Mantle-making departments are in full operation. Miss Wylie, head of Mantle Department will give her usual excellent satisfaction.

Fine Selection of Trimmings

Passmenteries, Laces and Pan Velvets.

KINGSMILL'S
 130 DUNDAS AND 131 CARLING STREETS
 LARGEST CARPET HOUSE IN CANADA
 Tel. 333 and 131 CARLING STREETS

Special Notice.
 Feather Beds, Pillows and Mattresses renovated and sterilized. Also manufacturers of Mattresses, Feather Pillows, Cushions and Spring Beds. Brass and Iron Bedsteads, Furniture, Camp Beds, at the Feather Bed and Mattress Cleaning Factory, J. F. Hunt & Sons, 833 Richmond street. Phone 987.

Many of the rural letter carriers in the Tyrol are women.

SLEEPLESSNESS.—When the nerves are unstrung and the whole body given up to wretchedness, when the mind is filled with gloom and dismal forebodings, the result of derangement of the digestive organs, sleeplessness comes to add to the distress. If only the subject could sleep, there would be oblivion for a while and temporary relief. Parmedee's Vegetable Pills will not only induce sleep, but will act so beneficially that the subject will wake refreshed and restored to happiness.

WHEN ALL OTHER corn preparations fail, try Holloway's Corn Cure. No pain whatever, and no inconvenience in using it.

A steel girder fell while being hoisted to the top of a San Francisco building and struck a house-mover's wooden roller, which ricocheted across the street, passed through the window of a crockery store and swept a 50-foot counter completely clear of the brickwork, cut glass, dinner sets, vases, etc., that were upon it.

IF YOUR CHILDREN are troubled with worms, give them Mother Graves' Worm Expeller: safe, sure and effective. Try it, and mark the improvement in your child.

It is calculated that one right angle bend in a pipe through which water flows will make necessary 9 per cent more pressure for a given flow than is required for a straight pipe of like size and structure. With three sharp bends at right angles, the pressure needed is 13 per cent more than that which is used in a straight pipe.

THE EFFICACY of Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup in curing coughs and colds and arresting inflammation of the lungs, can be established by hundreds of testimonials from all sorts and conditions of men. It is a standard remedy in these ailments and is sold by all druggists and chemists. It is highly recommended by medicine vendors, because they know and appreciate its value as a curative. Try it.

Cats are taxed in Dresden and other German towns. When the tax was first imposed thousands of the animals were destroyed by owners desirous to avoid payment.

One of the engine drivers on the Paris Metropolitan Railway is the son of a vice-president of the French senate, who was formerly Minister of Finance.

LIFE CHIPS.

During the Lenten season Life Chips should be served daily at every meal. As a food it has these recommendations: It contains more substance than three times its weight of the best beef. It is made from the original formula prepared by Dr. Kellogg, the great food expert. It is a pure Cereal Food, so treated as to be invaluable in cases of Chronic Dyspepsia. It is used daily in the Battle Creek Sanitarium with patients suffering from indigestion.

Save Your Buttons

By using a Horse-Shoe Brand Wringer
A. WESTMAN
 121 Dundas Street.

NEW YORK

12:35 a.m. daily, with Through Pullman Sleeper, arrives New York 4:33 p.m.
 Two fast express trains also leave at 3:35 a.m. and 4:17 p.m.
Special One-Way Excursion to the West.

Billings, Mont., Colorado Springs, Denver, Col., Nelson, Roseland, B.C., Portland, Ore., Seattle, Wash., Vancouver, Victoria, Westminster, B.C., San Francisco, Cal.
 Rates from London, \$24.35 to \$42.25.
 For tickets and full information call on E. DE LA HOOKE, city ticket agent, or E. RUSE, depot ticket agent.

Michigan Central

The Niagara Falls Route
\$42.25
 Via Chicago.

Vancouver, B. C.

From London, one way, second class. Tickets on sale daily. Low rates to many other places. Tickets, sleeping car reservation and information about rates, train service, etc., will be gladly furnished at city ticket office, 336 Richmond street, phone 26. THOMAS EVANS, agent, London, O. W. RUGGLES, G. P. and T. A., Chicago.

WABASH RAILROAD SYSTEM.

During the months of March, April and May the Wabash will make sweeping reductions in the one-way tourist rates from Canada to Texas, Old Mexico, California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Washington and British Columbia. Also round trip tickets on sale daily at greatly reduced rates to the South and West. There is nothing more assuring to the traveler than his knowledge of the fact that he is traveling over the Wabash system, the great winter tourist route to the South and West. For full particulars address J. A. RICHARDSON, district passenger agent, northeast corner King and Yonge streets, Toronto.

ALLAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS

From St. John and Halifax every Saturday, to Liverpool, via Montreal.
 First cabin, \$40 and upwards. Second cabin, \$20 and upwards. Glasgow service—First cabin, \$40; second cabin, \$27.50. Third class, to or from Liverpool, Derby, Belfast and Glasgow at lowest fares.
 E. De La Hooke, W. Fulton, F. B. Clarke, agents.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

WHY CANADA'S FAMOUS TRAIN, THE "Maritime Express" DOES THE BUSINESS BETWEEN Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax and the Sydneys, with connection for Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

SEATTLE'S TRAINS
 Will leave Toronto every Tuesday during March and April at 9 p.m. for
Manitoba and the Northwest
 and run via Grand Trunk, North Bay and Canadian Pacific. A colonist sleeper will be attached to each train. Passengers traveling without live stock should take the train leaving Toronto 1:45 p.m. Train leaving Toronto at 9 p.m. is for passengers traveling with stock.
 Full particulars and copy of Settlers' Guide and "Western Canada" from W. FULTON, Canadian Pacific agent, London, or C. B. FOSTER, D.P.A., Toronto.