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JAMES MOISAAC
Editor & Proprietor.

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The Increased Subsidies.

In connection with the proposed increased Provincial subsidies, there are several special features in addition to the general exposition of the question which should be borne in mind by the people of this Province. In the first place let it be borne in mind that the subsidies are not yet granted. All we have is the promise of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, that his Government will ask the Imperial authorities to amend the British North America Act, so as to allow these increased subsidies to be paid from the Federal treasury. But a comparison of Sir Wilfrid's promises and performances must convince anyone that there is very little ground for hope of a speedy realization of the plans formulated by those who constituted the recent conference. Ever since the Quebec Conference in 1887 whereat these demands were first formulated, Sir Wilfrid and his friends have been making promises regarding them. That is nineteen years ago and nothing has yet been done. From 1887 to 1896 Sir Wilfrid and his political associates kept promising that if they should attain power they would lose no time in securing to the Provinces these increases. For the ten years Sir Wilfrid has been in power he has constantly kept promising the increase; but up to the present nothing has been done.

When the Liberals came into power at Ottawa in 1896, all the Provincial Governments in the Dominion were "in line" with them; but no increased subsidies were granted. At each succeeding Provincial election since 1896, in this and every other province of the Dominion, the principal shibboleth of the Grits has been: "Keep in line with the Government at Ottawa, so that we may get the money that is coming to us." On the eve of every Provincial election Sir Wilfrid renewed his promise of increasing the subsidies, and wrote letters to the Provincial Premiers to be read during the election campaign but when the elections were over nothing more was heard of the matter until the approach of another election. In this way Sir Wilfrid has been deceiving the electorate of Canada with false promises.

So long as the Provincial Governments kept in line with the Government at Ottawa, Sir Wilfrid made no appearance of an effort to fulfil his promises; but changes began to take place in the Provincial administrations. First, British Columbia went against him but nothing was done. Then Manitoba elected a Conservative Government, still Sir Wilfrid did nothing. Finally he lost "his right arm," the Grit Government of Ontario, which was swept out and replaced by a vigorous Conservative administration. When this happened Sir Wilfrid began to think and eventually called the Premiers together and promised them to secure the amendment of the British North America Act, in order to increase the subsidies.

All this shows the hollowness and hypocrisy of the fawning, cringing followers who cry is: "Keep in line or we get nothing." When we have a just and equitable claim we should demand its fulfilment in unequivocal terms and back up this demand by a sturdy independence and a vigorous exercise of the franchise. This, as we have seen, is what has caused the question of the increased subsidies to progress as far as it has. The treatment that has been given to the Western Provinces in the matter of the subsidies is

in such contrast to what has been promised to this Province, that no one can help believing that our case has been very badly mismanaged. Alberta and Saskatchewan entered the union each with a population less than that of Prince Edward Island, yet each of them was given a subsidy of \$1,124,125, with no debt account or anything of that kind charged against them. They started Provincial housekeeping with a clean sheet and one million one hundred and twenty-four thousand, one hundred and twenty-five dollars to the credit of each of them. But that is not all, at the recent conference an addition was granted to each of them of \$130,000. There appears to be no limit to the drawings of these new Provinces from the Federal treasury. Surely this was the time for Prince Edward Island's representatives to stand up and demand special treatment for our Province. Our Province was treated in too small a manner altogether. The Western Provinces had their case discussed in millions; but Prince Edward Island's representatives sat dumb and expressed no dissatisfaction with a few thousands known to them. As the population of the West goes on increasing our contribution to the subsidies from which we receive no benefit will constantly increase, and it is not unlikely a time will come when the promised increase in our annual subsidy shall be more than set off by our increased contribution. Surely this is not the manner of settlement desired by the best friends of Prince Edward Island.

Ottawa Weekly Letter.

Another Government Disaster.

Quebec County Elects an Independent Candidate—Despite Best Efforts of Sir Wilfrid and His Colleagues—A Great Day for Revolvers.

MR. AYLESWORTH EXCITED.

Shocked at Mr. Bourassa's Insurrection—Is Mr Aylesworth One of the Barnacles?

MR. HYMAN IN SECULSION.

But Scores Who Voted for Him at Ten Dollars Each Are Visible—Public Works Contractors Were Active and Generous—Where Are the Immigrants?—Census Enumerators in the West Cannot Find Them.

Ottawa, Oct. 27, 1906.

Following the blows administered to the Government by the electors of East Elgin and North Renfrew comes a still more startling disaster for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Party where it was supposed to be strongest. Quebec County had a record for fifteen years as a liberal stronghold. It was carried in 1891 against the Conservative Government by a majority of 340. In 1896 Mr. Fitzpatrick raised the majority to 924. Four years later his majority was 1290, and in the general election of 1904 the vote stood:

For Fitzpatrick, Liberal 2445
For Pageot, Conservative 271

Government majority 2174

IT LOOKED SAFE.

In the provincial election less than two years ago the county went liberal by acclamation. Under these circumstances Sir Wilfrid Laurier expected to name his own man to succeed Mr. Fitzpatrick. The candidate chosen by Sir Wilfrid and his friends was Mr. Anyot, a wealthy Quebec merchant and manufacturer, who took the field with apparent certainty of success. But the revolt against the Liberal machine took form in the nomination of three other candidates, two of whom retired before the nomination day leaving in the field Mr. Robitaille, a young man of 23, without wealth or any external advan-

tages. He came out as an Independent and had the support of the Conservative element in the riding.

SIGNS OF ALARM.

Before nomination day the revolt took such serious form that the whole Government party organization was called into action. Sir Wilfrid Laurier spent some days in Quebec in conference with local leaders. He went to the constituency and addressed the electors on behalf of Mr. Anyot, who, he declared, was the Government candidate. Postmaster-general Lemieux, the Minister who has charge of the Quebec district, went into the county and stayed there, assisting the organization and appealing in his most fervent manner to the electors to stand by the Government. No less than seven members of Parliament supporting the Government were on the stump in the county. The Premier of Quebec and Mr. Prevost, his eloquent associate, held meetings throughout the riding. Senator Choquette, who recently gave up a judgeship to return to politics, was among the orators for Mr. Anyot. The county was never so thoroughly canvassed for a candidate, and Mr. Anyot himself spared neither his purse nor his business influence nor personal appeal, in his own behalf.

THE ORGANS TOO.

The Government Press did its full duty. Le Canada, organ of the party in Montreal, and Soleil, Sir Wilfrid's personal organ in Quebec City, declared over and over again that a vote for Mr. Robitaille was a vote against the Government. Mr. Bourassa, one of the Liberal revolvers, who in the House of Commons voted last Session against the Government on the Saskatchewan land deal and the North Atlantic Scandal, took an active part in the campaign in favor of the Independent candidate. The Government Press described him as a "traitor" and "an enemy of the party," "a foe to Sir Wilfrid," and Mr. Robitaille as his "tool" and "puppet."

A GREAT OVERTURN.

But on Tuesday when the votes were counted the tool and puppet was away ahead, and Sir Wilfrid's candidate was beaten by a majority of 447. Sir Wilfrid is greatly confused and distressed over the occurrence. It marks the decline of his personal ascendancy and shows that the Laurier machine in Quebec is going the same way as the Mercier machine went fifteen years ago.

MR. AYLESWORTH EXCITED.

Mr. Aylesworth, who is now campaigning in the North Bruce by-election, has been telling the people of Warton and other towns in that riding that the defeat of the Laurier candidate in Quebec was a victory for passion and prejudice. The Minister of Justice argues at that distance from Quebec that Sir Wilfrid has been punished for his British tendencies and his loyalty to the Crown at the time of the South African war. He accuses Mr. Bourassa of anti-English tendencies. But the Minister forgets that it was Sir Wilfrid himself who first declared that Canada could not and would not send troops to Africa. Mr. Bourassa may have stood by Sir Wilfrid's statement after the Premier was driven from it by the pressure of loyal opinion in this country.

MR. BOURASSA LAST SESSION.

But, judging by last session's record, his quarrel with the Government has other reasons. The member for Labelle voted against his Leader on Dr. Roche's motion condemning the Saskatchewan Land deal, whereby 250,000 acres of choice prairie land were sold on long credit for \$100 an acre, mostly scrip to Mr. Sifton's friends who made \$1,700,000 out of the deal. On that occasion Mr. Bourassa said: "There are a few principles which I preached when opposing the Conservative Government to which I still adhere." One of these principles was the land for the settler. He declared that he was now voting to condemn "a policy that we have denounced time and again in the past and which as a Liberal I am prepared to denounce now."

AGAINST THE BARNACLES.

Another vote which Mr. Bourassa gave against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was one condemning the North Atlantic Trading Company contract, by which a bogus corporation of unknown gruffers had secured \$300,000 on the pretence of sending out emigrants to Canada. On that occasion Mr. Bourassa reminded Sir Wilfrid Laurier of the last days of the Ross Government in Ontario.

That Ministry rejected the advice of its best friends, who advised Mr. Ross to treat the barnacles on the party ship with a hand of iron. Said Mr. Bourassa: "There are to-day thousands of independent Liberals not only in Quebec but throughout the Dominion, who feel that the barnacles on the Government ship should be treated with an iron hand." On these points Mr. Bourassa is not at all un-English. The result of his appeal to the electors of Quebec County seems to show that he properly represented their opinion on the barnacles question, though Mr. Aylesworth prefers barnacles. About the only other question on which Mr. Bourassa differed last session from the Government was the Lord's Day Act. On this question he made a sudden and enthusiastic convert of Mr. Aylesworth himself, who nine days after he had declared it impossible to accept the Provincial Rights amendment announced to the House that he would give this change his hearty and grateful support, since it was in accord with his own ancient principles. Thus Mr. Bourassa assisted Mr. Aylesworth to "improve a lifelong conviction."

MR. HYMAN OUT OF LIGHT.

Mr. Hyman, Minister of Public Works, was to have taken charge of the North Bruce campaign. He is not there. In fact he is not visible anywhere. The disclosures of the London election prosecution, showing that Mr. Hyman's seat in the House, like many others won by his party during the last ten years in Ontario, was stolen by fraud and bribery. Mr. Hyman has been advised by members of his own party to resign his seat and thus make some concession to honor and decency. But he is holding on to the property that was stolen for him, and strange to say the Minister of Justice commends him for doing so.

THE TEN DOLLAR SUPPORTERS.

Meanwhile the evidence has gone on accumulating. Down to two days ago over ninety persons had testified to the payment to them of money for their votes, many receiving it personally from Collins, the deputy returning officer who confesses that he examined the ballots to see how they were marked before he paid the money or authorized the payment. The sum paid to forty-eight of these witnesses was \$10 each. The same amount was to be paid to twenty-two others, but the sharp paymaster took a personal rake-off, in seventeen cases claiming fifty cents each, and in five cases one dollar each, which he called his commission.

CONTRACTORS OF COURSE.

An interesting feature of this week's evidence is the confession of two contractors from Ottawa, who went into the riding to assist. Contractor White says that he paid the expenses of four of the Ottawa boys, one of them a Government employee, and another subsequently appointed to the service, who were present during the hottest part of the campaign. He divided \$300 among them to use as might be convenient. These Ottawa delegates, whose expenses were also paid, had been accustomed to work together in elections at home. The contractor who paid their expenses was James White, who also happens to be President of the Ottawa Liberal Club. But he is not the only contractor who thought it advisable to assist the Minister of Public Works with advice and money. James A. Corry has had an interesting contract on the St. Joseph's wharf. This structure, which cost \$15,000, though the Government promised to build it for \$500, stands on an exposed coast of Lake Huron where it can never be used, as it is not accessible by water or easily reached by land. The Liberal member for the county protested when the work started that no one wanted it and that it would be useless. Nevertheless it was pushed on, apparently for the benefit of the contractor, and one other man who has since disappeared.

A WHARF CONTRACT.

Mr. Corry, having this contract from the Minister of Public Works, thought that he could not do better than go to London with his pockets full of money to assist that Minister with his election. He admits that he handed \$300 to Mr. Reid, who is now charged as a party to the conspiracy.

A TRANSCONTINENTAL CONSPIRACY.

A third interesting disclosure connects the London conspiracy with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Commission. It was shown that a Toronto firm supplied stationery for the commission, and that when one of the bills was due the amount was promptly sent them with \$80 in excess. Shortly afterwards a member of the firm was visited by Mr. O'Gorman, one of the persons now accused, who asked him for the amount overpaid as an election contribution. Mr. O'Gorman as local party organizer seems to have been well informed concerning the Railway Commission finance at Ottawa, which is perhaps accounted for by the fact that one of the commissioners was formerly an

active party manager in London. It should also be stated that one of Mr. White's picnic party to London is described as a Railway Commission employee, and the contractor Corry, above mentioned rents to Mr. Hyman's department the offices of the Transcontinental Commission.

CENSUS DISCLOSURES.

The final returns from the North West Census are not yet issued, but enough is given out to show that the increase of population in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta is from 470,000 to 420,000. While this is a handsome gain in five years it shows that the immigration returns given out by the Government are altogether false.

THE LOST IMMIGRANTS.

According to the Immigration Department there should have been well on to 500,000 immigrants settling in these three provinces since the previous census. If there had been no settlers received from the Eastern Provinces and no natural increase in the population, these five years, there would still have been a shortage of 50,000 to 75,000 in population. As it is the immigration returns handed out from year to year must be cut down by one third or perhaps one half. Either the immigrants reported were not settlers at all, or they were falsely reported or else they came to this country on their way to the United States. No doubt great numbers of mere visitors from the United States have also been classed as settlers.

PADDED FOR A PURPOSE.

Undoubtedly the immigration returns have been greatly swelled by such transactions as the North Atlantic contract, by which unscrupulous persons were paid an allowance per head for immigrants alleged to have come to this country from the European continent. It has been shown that the Trading Company had intimate and suspicious business relations with officers of the Interior Department and it was an easy matter to pad out the returns to the advantage of one or all parties to the arrangements.

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