

THE WEST

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1907

LAURIER'S COMING

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has decided that he must come west to offset if possible the recent tour of Mr. Borden. The last time Sir Wilfrid was here was when he attended the inauguration ceremonies and he stayed to engineer the formation of the Scott Cabinet. He was bound to complete the coercion process by which he was successful in stifling for a time the will of the people of Saskatchewan. When the prime minister comes to this province he must of course deal with the lands robbery and the imposition of separate schools, but he will find that he is not surrounded by Quebec pro-clericals. The men on these prairies do not patronize a man because of his nationality, creed, eloquence or position. What we want is a square deal, and this we will fight for till we attain it, it matters not how long the struggle lasts.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the premier coercionist; he is the man who insisted on the smaller fellows "swallowing" because he swallowed before, he insulted our American citizens by ridiculing their school system which he said was responsible for outlawry; he picked a premier for us because he swallowed his principles with regard to the lands and the school question, and he gave the assistance of his public officials to help suppress our wishes at the polls.

With these recollections of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, we await his coming.

THE TARIFF ISSUE

During the sitting of the tariff commission at Regina, December 15th, last, our associations were well represented, and recorded their views for the first time on how the pending revision of the tariff should be effected in the interests of agriculture.

The above is an extract from the annual address of Mr. Motherwell of Abernethy, when president of the Grain Growers' Association. It will be remembered that the tariff commission sat at Regina in the fall of 1905 and after representations were made by farmers in favor of lower duties on agricultural implements, Mr. Motherwell, who was the last speaker, drew the attention of the commission to the fact that the government arranged the sittings and the farmers had made no request for such a commission and were perfectly satisfied if the tariff remained as it was, but if there was to be a revision it should not be in a higher direction. It is a matter of history that since the costly tariff commission there has not been any reduction made in the duty on agricultural implements, and the government now asks the people to be grateful for the fact that the tariff on these imports was not raised when the manufacturers made such demands in that direction. Only the other day at the Estevan convention Mr. Turill took credit for the tariff not being raised, and all this in the face of their pre-election pledge to lower the tariff.



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THE AFTERMATH

Elsewhere we publish some of the evidence of the London bribery trial. After reading of the disgusting election methods of the Dominion government we are not surprised that such Liberal majorities were obtained at the last elections.

It will be remembered that the London election took place when the autonomy bills were before parliament and when Mr. Hyman won, the verdict was used by Sir Wilfrid Laurier as the answer of Ontario to Mr. Haultain and the opponents of the land and school clauses of that bill. Now, however, the people who knew at the time how the election was won, can throw back into Sir Wilfrid Laurier's teeth the taunts which he threw out about the emphatic reply by the London electors. It must not be forgotten that Mr. Scott was in close touch with some of the London Liberal workers and he got a certain amount of satisfaction out of the result as announced at that time for it helped him to "swallow," he must therefore accept the stigma which attaches to the part he played in that great game of coercion.

THE TARIFF ROW

The tariff row continues in the United States and the public is getting a good deal of inside information. H. E. Miles, who is president of the National Association of Manufacturers, has been conducting a vigorous campaign for tariff revision and he has been attacked severely by some interests. The criticism, however, only made him fight with more zeal and he comes back at his opponents with facts that certainly are revelations to the consumer and those who have been accustomed to merely look upon the outside of the tariff issue.

We quote Mr. Miles' own words as follows:

"When congress gave us 45 per cent, we needed only 20 per cent, they gave us a congressional permit, if not an invitation, to consolidate, form one great trust, and advance our prices 25 per cent, being the difference between the 20 per cent we needed and the 45 per cent given. This difference would mean a net annual profit to my company only, of from \$500,000 to \$800,000, and to the industry at large a profit of from fifty to \$75,000,000. If \$50,000,000, that would be, by the time it had passed through intermediate hands to the agricultural consumers, approximately \$100,000,000.

"How smart and wise and patriotic we could be, if only we had the sense and the meanness to take that \$100,000,000 out of the consumers. How we could and would believe in the tariff as accountable for all prosperity and how we might 'fool ourselves' into saying, and what is more, believing, that it is for the good of the farmer that he pays one hundred million dollars more for his supplies, that we might get \$50,000,000 out of that \$100,000,000.

"However, it is too late and I do not believe that there is one of us who at this time thinks that he would be willing to get into that position. But those who sup-

ply us have gotten into that position, and I am their catspaw.

I am making a very petty sum from the inquiries of the tariff. I know that the people as a whole are losing a total of not less than \$500,000,000 per year.

"Morally I am deeply affected, when I say morally, I mean to speak as a business man only. Every business man knows that honesty and fair dealing are the best of commercial assets. There is almost no one in business, who would not be as frightened to find that he had defrauded or wronged a customer as to hear that one of his buildings is on fire. He knows that he is not smart enough, if he were so inclined to deal unjustly, to trifle with his trade and hold it with profit. He could not fool enough people at a time to make it pay, even if he wanted to, as no one does."

EDITORIAL NOTES

R. G. McPherson, M.P. of Vancouver has been appointed warden of the penitentiary at New Westminster. He is not the only Liberal politician that will go to jail.

Charles McGregor, fire inspector and fisheries inspector at Prince Albert under the Dominion government has had to resign the fisheries appointment owing to the onerous duties. It was not his official duties, however, which overworked Mr. McGregor, but the strenuous efforts he exerted with Commissioner of Education Calder, in trying to elect Alphonse Turgeon.

The Canadian bankers have certainly put it up to Mr. Fielding by announcing that if the Dominion would pay their overdrafts the banks would have plenty of money to finance Canadian industries. They practically say to the minister of finance, "Put up or Shut up."

President Roosevelt has given orders that no federal officer must go to a Republican convention as a Roosevelt delegate. Teddy has evidently not taken his cue from the Canadian government.

"The Evolution of Reform," was the subject of an address delivered by Alphonse Turgeon before the Saskatchewan Liberal Club. A better text for Mr. Turgeon would be "The Descent of Liberalism."

In a Nova Scotia bye-election the opposing candidates signed an agreement to conduct a clean campaign. This will be a big surprise to that province and there will no doubt be a small vote polled.

Press Comments

(Toronto Telegram)

Canada's Opposition may have been as blind as Canada's Government to the dangers of hand-to-mouth finance at Ottawa.

True, the Opposition did not fail to view with alarm the extravagance of a Laurier Administration.

Did the Opposition develop a financial genius who could point out the rocks ahead of this country's prosperity?

The two great rocks in the course of Canada's recent voyage have been:

1. The extravagance that squandered millions in prodigious subsidies and useless public works.

2. The short sighted policy that failed to finance the expenditures at Ottawa by means of foreign loans instead of by means of loans from the chartered banks of Canada.

Canada's banks have had to finance the needs of the Government.

Consequently Canada's banks have been short of the money called for by the needs of commerce, industry and agriculture.

It will be the duty of the Opposition next session to find out how many millions have been taken out of the Canadian banks to finance the needs of the Dominion government.

Needs that should have been financed with money borrowed in the European markets, not from the chartered banks of Canada.

The policy of the Dominion Government has been a large and influential contributor to the present scarcity of money in Canada.

If the Dominion government helps the banks in the country's hour of need the Government may partially undo the harm done when it emptied money out of the banks into national expenditures in the country's hour of apparent plenty.

If the country had not tapped the banks of Canada with the demands of national extravagance at Ottawa the banks would have had money in plenty to move the wheat crop and finance this country's needs as usual.

If Geo. E. Foster can rise to the occasion he has a chance to give Hon. W. S. Fielding a bad half hour in the discussion of how far the Dominion Government is to blame for the inability of the banks to finance the ordinary needs of the country.

(From Toronto News)

Mr. Borden's declarations in favor of public ownership of telegraphs and telephones have been criticised in the west because he speaks with reserve and moderation. His declared intention of being fair to capital has aroused suspicion that he is "hedging."

His critics are public ownership enthusiasts who are very earnest over the rights of "the people" and who are convinced that those rights are to be secured only by the complete adoption of their plans and by the acceptance of their economic theories.

Most people have no quarrel with the theory of public ownership. Most people believe that telegraphs and telephones, perhaps railways, could be operated by the government with advantage to the public. The postal service is an illustration of what can be done in that direction. Yet most people do not believe that expropriation of all these utilities is a vital need at this moment. Nor do they believe that the private companies now operating these utilities deserve no consideration from the government.

But this is the attitude of those who have made public ownership a religion, or who speak the language of the demagogue. They say that private capitalists have grown rich by bleeding the public, and that they do not deserve consideration. In a word, they advocate a war of reprisals.

The peculiar code of morals by which certain private owners of public utilities have directed their pursuit of wealth cannot be defended. It is not a creditable code. At the same time the government cannot possibly adopt similar methods without plunging us back into the middle ages. Oppression and tyranny are the same whether the victims be rich or poor. The man who invests his money in an enterprise believing that it will remain a going concern has rights that are not obliterated even though he bleed the public for half a century. If that enterprise at any time is taken over by the government for the public advantage, the owners' rights must be fully recognized. If they are not so recognized this is no longer a free country. The present day advanced radical may be as much a tyrant as a Persian satrap. The only difference is that one would oppress the rich while the other oppresses the poor.

In a democratic country the rights of property must be respected. Every man no matter what his station should be able to get just and fair treatment. If public ownership is regarded as necessary, so that the poor may get a fair chance, then the private owner's rights must receive consideration. Mr. Borden's position on this question is sound in morals and sound in statesmanship.

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(Qu'Appelle Progress)

The ravages wrought by wolves throughout this district are so great that a united effort should be made by farmers to induce the government to offer an adequate bounty. Their raids on farm yards are so bold that they go into stables even when people are near by. To them is no doubt attributable a great deal of the destruction of the partridges and prairie chickens. Some of our farmers are purchasing hounds with which to hunt the wolves but unless every farmer follows suit they will continue to increase. The grain growers might, with advantage, take this matter up when they meet.

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(Calgary Herald.)

A homestead inspector at Port Saskatchewan has resigned his position to run as government candidate for the federal constituency of Victoria. If he is defeated it is safe betting that Hon. Frank Oliver will give him his job back, just as the honorable gentleman rehabilitated Mr. Phillip Wagner at a higher salary after he had served a term in jail for robbing poor Galicians.

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