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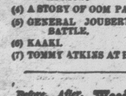

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CHATHAM, N. B. - FEBRUARY 15, 1900.

The Legislature.

The New Brunswick legislature opens at Fredericton to-day.

St John and the Empire.

A most momentous question has been, for some time, agitating the public mind in St. John, and as it is said to have been practically decided not exactly as many worthy citizens of that enterprising, but sometimes effervescent community desired, they are, in the first flush of their disappointment, saying foolish things. It is said that some of them are even "swearing off" on their political fealty and are a little doubtful as to whether loyalty pays as well as it did a little more than a century ago in and about St. John.

It is, of course, for the political leaders at Ottawa and the advisers also of Her Majesty in London to consider what the consequences may be of leaving a naturally warlike people to brood over the fact that geographical considerations, want of facilities for the work in hand—involving proper safeguards for those to be embarked,—etc. have not been lost sight of in view of the persistency and unanimity of St. John in demanding what it considers should be accorded to it in the matter.

Time, however, which works changes of many kinds, will, no doubt, bring about a more reasonable view of things at the Winter Port of Canada; and our friends there, having come to a better frame of mind, will also return to their political and national allegiance. Meantime the following lines on the situation will not be without interest:—

From Maharajahed India,
From Australia's sheepy strand,
From New Zealand's coastal zig-zags,
Her vales and mountain land;
From the Malay States and Lagos,
Cawnpore and Chittagong;
From Pembs and Kismayu,
Tasmania and Hong Kong;
From Canadian sea-grit coast-range,
From her inland seas and plains,
Her grain-clad rolling prairies and
Her Rocky Mountain chains;
From the Yukon to St. Stephen,
From Victoria to Bras d'or,
The Volunteers are hastening
To be sent to fight the Boer.
And they want to fight in earnest
And to make old Kruger quake,
To be foremost on the steamer
And the first to reach the Cape,
The first entrained for Kimberley
For Ladysmith, or where
The fighting's to be done up brown—
They all want to be there.

But while the Australian heroes
From Sydney sail away,
Zealanders from Dunedin go,
And the Indians from Bombay;
While the hustle's all along the line
To get there double quick,
And all ranks are pushing forward
Without a jar or kick;
While from Chilkaht to the Orient
The Empire's hosts move fast
O'er land and sea, thro' burning sands
Or icy northern blast—
Canadians must stand at ease,
Stack arms and idle wait
While a local combination's claim
Is canvassed by the State.

Never, since the great debating club
Of Pumpkinville discoursed
Whether measles or the whooping-cough
For babyhood was worse;
Never since the Sun and Telegraph
Filled Halifax with ice
And the Chronicle befogged St. John
In a way that wasn't nice,
Has there been such a weighty theme
To cause an army's stay
As St. John's demand that from that port
The troops shall sail away.

This fateful, all-absorbing theme
O'ershadows all beside;
It levels every former feud
That great ones did divide.—
Sears and McCrea and Christie,
"Peace with honor" in it find,
While the Telegraph, converted,
Meekly shuffles into line.
No more does that great leader of
The fickle public mind
Contend that, after searching,
It has really failed to find
Facilities within its town
Tho' it's the Winter Port, of course,
To accomodate and ship a few
Of martial men and horse.
All St John is roused to action!
Each St. Johnnie with a pull
Stacks his duds and tugs at Ottawa
With determination full,
And he swears by his great jingo
And his Loyalistic blood
And his Winter Port and Dry Dock
And all that's great and good;
By his own bright sword and rifle
And Ougondy's battle-axe
That the shipping of South Afric troops
Must cease at Halifax.
He's got a port as good as that
Of which Chebucto boasts,
With tidal rise and fall and flow,
The biggest on our coasts
With distance to it greater
For the steamship's rapid run
And military establishments
That aren't overdone.

So St. Johnnies warn the Powers
Both of politics and war,
At Ottawa and London,
Of neglect that's gone too far;
And they do protest vehemently,
And swear with one acclaim
That if a sojer-ship sails not
From St. John 'twill be a shame.
They say they ought to have their turn
And divvey in the snaps,
And second fiddle they will play
No more to Halifax.
They now demand, and mean it too,
Without parley or recourse
That the shipping profits must be theirs
Of Lord Strathcona's horse.
Let Laurier tremble should Old Strath
Not patronize St. John,
For every Liberal vote will change
When next election's on.
Let Britain quake and contemplate
The direful effect
Upon a brooding people of
Such scandalous neglect.

Too long has fortressed Halifax
Enjoyed Imperial rights,
Too long embraured York Redoubt
Triumphed o'er Carleton Heights,
Too long has George's Island kept
Old Partridge in the shade,
Too long has Eastern Battery
The Barrack Point unmade;
Too long the great masked rifled guns
Of Sylvan Pleasant Point
The nose of great Fort Dufferin put
Completely out of joint;
Too long the frowning Citadel
Fort Howe a pasture kept
And the great Imperial barracks crowed
It o'er St. John's neglect.
Too long the spacious Dockyard been
The Haligonians pride,
Too long have Britain's war ships lain
At moorings in its tide.
Too long—but what's the earthly use
Of railing in this way?
It's men St. John demands to ship,
As well as oats and hay,
And if she isn't listened to
And her will in this not done
Then let the Empire go to dust
And Paul Kruger take the bun.—

The trodden worm has turned at last
Let Blair and Laurier know,
Let Chamberlain and Salisbury quake,
For St. John may be their foe
Unless they, some way, scheme it out
By suasion or by force
From The Winter Port of Canada
To ship Strathcona's Horse.

THE WAR!

During the past week no material progress appears to have been made towards the relief of Ladysmith or the ending of the war.

General Buller crossed the Tugela in considerable force and was reported to have captured advantageous positions which would enable him to relieve Ladysmith in a few hours; but the next news was that he had withdrawn his forces to the south side of the Tugela, as he found the position he had taken, at a cost of nearly three hundred men, untenable.

His retreat was a bloodless one.

The news since that is rather colorless, but General Roberts appears to be preparing for a march up through the Orange Free State, and it is intimated that we shall have great news in a day or two.

A Large Increase in Great Britain's Fighting Forces.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—In the Imperial House of Commons yesterday, Mr. George Wyndham, parliamentary secretary, rose, amid cheers, when the house went into committee on supply, and said that he did not propose to deal with the question of the prosecution of the war, but would proceed immediately to outline other military measures necessary for placing home defence on a satisfactory footing. The government he continued, had not even considered the question of compulsory service which was entirely unnecessary in view of the activity of recruiting for the auxiliary forces. Since the war ten thousand had joined under the existing conditions, and, he pointed out, if improved facilities were offered he anticipated that the volunteer auxiliary forces, if their efficiency was increased, would easily suffice for passive defence, and to garrison the seaports and other positions. They might even go qualified for undertaking more onerous duties. During the spring and summer the volunteer artillery would be rearmed and a higher capitation grant would be given the volunteers, coupled with the demand for higher efficiency.

A mounted infantry volunteer corps would be formed and the Yeomanry would be treated on the same principles. The artillery, army service corps and engineers necessary for two additional army corps would be raised forthwith, namely thirty-six field batteries and seven horse batteries. The speaker also said it had been decided to raise twelve additional infantry battalions. Continuing, Mr. Wyndham said the existing cavalry forces would also be expanded by seven regiments and that commissions would be offered to militia officers, to the colonies and to the universities. At present, the speaker further pointed out, there were 109,000 regulars in the country and the increase was anticipated to be 30 000. There were now 225 000 men in the auxiliary forces and they was estimated the increase would be 50,000 men. So, altogether, the country would soon have at least 517,000 men and Mr. Wyndham anticipated that the number would be nearer 600,000 than half a million.

During the course of his remarks, Mr. Wyndham referred to the government's confidence in the power and splendid efficiency of the fleet, saying it was never greater of more legitimate than now. But, in case of the fear of invasion, the garrisoning of the coast towns would devolve on the auxiliary forces, as it would be the first duty of the fleet to be off the enemy's coast, or face to face with the enemy. The government, Mr. Wyndham then said, was not making an appeal for money and men in a spirit of panic. The risk was not very much nearer than a year ago. But it had increased in exact proportion to the reduction of the home military defence, which suffered to justify the present demands for an increase of the resources for home defence.

Not Privileged.

Judge Vanwart of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick claimed privilege the other day from an order of Judge Wilson of the York County Court made for the purpose of compelling him to appear and disclose his financial affairs on application of a judgment creditor. The matter was carried to the Supreme Court of the province of which Judge Vanwart is a member and judgment was given last Friday.

The majority of the court held that there was no privilege in the case of a judge as was contended by the defendent but they were of the opinion that the order for examination made by Judge Wilson should not have been made ex parte.

Judge Barker in his judgment said that in his opinion a judge had no privilege in a case of this kind, not enjoyed by any other citizen. According to his view of the matter if a judge were brought up for examination for disclosure and declined to answer the questions put to him, he was liable to be punished for contempt.

Chief Justice Tuck said that he thought Judge Wilson had done just what he was authorized to do under the act of assembly. The objection raised on behalf of the defendant he considered to be merely of a technical nature. He repudiated any such idea that there was one law for the ordinary debtor and another for the supreme court judge. He regretted exceedingly that the point had been raised on behalf of the defendent. He was of the opinion that a judge of the supreme court, if he became a debtor, was entitled to no more consideration, other things being equal, than any other common man. The court decided to make the rule absolute and to quash the order.

Mr. Gregory made application to have the order to quash made in another, but he request was refused.

Fish and Game Protection.

[Continued from last week.]

At the Saturday morning session of the North American Fish and Game Protection Association, Hon. A. T. Dunn, Surveyor General of New Brunswick, presided. Hon. Mr. Parent being unavoidably detained elsewhere on important business.

The first question taken up was imposition of a license on market men and game dealers and the prohibition of the sale of game and game fishes.

The speakers generally favored prohibition entirely of the sale of game. Mr. J. E. Walsh would make it a penal offense to offer any game bird or animal for sale and Mr. W. G. Parish offered a resolution to the effect that the Association would recommend the enactment of laws against the sale of game.

Mr. D. G. Smith said that whatever might be desirable from the sportsman's standpoint, or whatever he might favor personally, he must as a practical man oppose the resolution. Its adoption would not lead to the legal enactment sought and if it did the law would not be respected. The convention should not be carried away by its sporting enthusiasm from due consideration of its aims, the chief of which were to enlist the sympathies of the public and bring even poachers to see the advantage to themselves of assisting in carrying out its objects. Let the game be properly regulated, and limited as much as possible, but let us avoid antagonizing public sentiment by asking for unreasonable prohibitions.

Mr. Titcomb of Vermont and Mr. Wilson of New York contended for the resolution, arguing that unless the sale of game animals, birds and fishes were prohibited extermination would result.

Mr. Smith cited the salmon, striped bass and other fishes of commerce, which were also game fishes, and referred to their importance to the trade of the country and asked if any practical and reasonable man could seriously contemplate the prevention of their being sold in open market? Moreover, he pointed out that if the right to sell such fish were taken away by law it would lead to a general disregard of all enactments for fish and game protection. He cited the effect of the Dominion Act of 1880 which by one short section prohibited the taking of salmon with nets or "other engines" in non-tidal waters, and said its injustice had caused thousands of people to become poachers or sympathisers with poaching. The convention could not afford to ignore such experience.

The resolution was finally amended and passed as follows:

"That in view of the large destruction of game, caused by market or pot hunters, that the convention would recommend the non-sale of game or the restriction of sales as much as possible.

The subject of leasing, hunting and fishing privileges was next taken up and discussed largely from the standpoints of Quebec, Vermont and Maine.

Mr. A. N. Skowan, M. A. argued strongly in favor of all wild lands and angling waters being left open to the public.

Mr. Fottler, of Boston, said that if private individuals or clubs spent thousands to protect their leased territory, their rights should be respected. Besides, experience showed that Government control was not efficient. In the United States they were obliged to restock their streams, which had been protected only by Government officials. He gave as a Canadian instance, the St. John's River, in Gaspe. He had leased the river in 1891. In 1893, there were no more salmon left. He and his associates had since spent $30,000 in protecting this river, which was now one of the best salmon rivers in the country. They had also bought out the fishing rights of the net fishermen at the estuary, and had got these fishermen to sign a declaration that the granting of further licenses would injure the supply of salmon. Sir Charles H. Tupper had approved this declaration and no further licenses were granted.

Mr. Joncas said that the Wardens employed by lessees and club men did more than the government officers in protecting fish and game.

Mr. D. G. Smith said that was the experience in New Brunswick, so far as the rivers were concerned. Indeed, if it were not for the protection given to the best salmon rivers by the lessees and riparian owners there would be nothing to protect. Unfortunately, the portion of the public who clamored for free fishing were the men who did not want to see a protective officer, but would take fish in any way they could get them—legal or otherwise. It was a well known fact that all rivers which were easily accessible to centres of population, or ran through settled portions of the country, were invariably depleted of their fish, while rivers that were leased remained valuable assets of the country by reason of the protection which lessees gave them. People needed protection from themselves in regard to their game fishes.

Mr. McCombie said there were no leases of wild lands in Maine, save in small areas. If the same rule prevailed in Canada thousands of sportsmen would come here to hunt and fish.

Mr. Wilson of New York pointed out how the fishing and sporting clubs protected the fish and game of the country at enormous cost to themselves, and he instanced cases where hundreds of thousands of dollars had been spent in increasing the stocks of big game animals and stocking waters with fish after "the public" had absolutely depleted them.

Mr. McCombie, having withdrawn a resolution favoring the absolute prohibition of leases of forest areas to angling and sporting clubs, etc. Dr. Boisseau moved, seconded by Mr. L. O. Armstrong:

"That it would be desirable to have only by the Department of Lands and Fisheries, lots from one half to ten acres in ordinary conditions excepting land clearing."

This referred only to the Province of Quebec and was discussed from that standpoint. During the debate Mr. Fottler of Boston, referring to Mr. McCombie's statement that there were no leases of wild lands in Maine, save in small areas, said that the clubs in that State held extensive tracts and he named the Megantic and other clubs in northern Maine whose areas were very large.

Dr. Boisseau's resolution finally passed by one majority, the general idea being that each government should in such matters as this, be free to carry out its own policy.

Mr. Usher moved, seconded by Dr. Porter,—"That the sense of this meeting is that the best interest of those states and Provinces which permit leases to clubs would not be served by leasing their entire wild lands, but that a considerable portion of such territory should be left open for shooting and fishing under proper restrictions."

Mr. Joncas pointed out that the Province of Quebec already had such reserved territories. The Laurentides National Park, and the Trembling Mountain Park were preserves containing thousands of acres. It was proposed to establish other such parks in the Metapedia Valley and in the Temiscouata district. By paying license, parties would be allowed to go in and kill a certain amount of game or take a certain quantity of fish.

The motion was adopted.

It was moved by L. H. Stearns, seconded by Dr. W. H. Drummond, and unanimously resolved: "That we believe the formation of Fish and Game Protective Associations is a very desirable feature in the enforcement of fish and game laws and we therefore recommend to the Governments of the respective states and provinces that every reasonable encouragement be given to the formation of such associations."

At Saturday afternoon's session Hon. Mr. Parent occupied the chair.

It was moved by D. G. Smith, seconded by E. T. D. Chambers, and resolved: "That a committee of this association, to be called, the promotion committee, be appointed for the purpose of furnishing data to and otherwise disseminating through the press and other public channels of communication with the people, information calculated to promote particularly our protective objects."

Col. P. C. Laird remarked that the Canadian position was already with them, while Mr. Titcomb of Vermont and Mr. Fottler, of Massachusetts, testified to the good work done by the press in their respective States.

It was proposed by Mr. John Fottler, jr., seconded by Hon. A. T. Dunn, and carried:

"That the association request transportation companies to instruct their agents to render any assistance to the enforcement of the law in regard to shipment of game and fish."

The following motion by W. G. Parish, seconded by H. E. Welsh, was also passed:

"Resolved—That it is expedient for the proper authorities to instruct their wardens and officers to enforce laws, in all cases, with as much courtesy as possible, especially regarding foreign sportsmen."

Mr. Usher brought up the question of a continuous close season. He did not think that the Ontario system, for instance, of closing a whole province to moose hunters, produced the effect sought.

Mr. Titcomb was of contrary opinion. In Vermont, through such a system, they had propagated deer.

Hon. A. T Dunn explained the New Brunswick method. They had made a close season west of the St. John river for moose, and this had proved a success.

Mr. Dickson maintained the wisdom and good effects of the Ontario close season for moose. Messrs. McCrombie and Usher were of opinion that the law was not observed near the Quebec border.

After further discussion the question of close season for fish came up and it was moved by W. C. Parish, seconded by J. McCrombie:

"As many waters have not at present the right dates for close season for angling—Resolved: That it is the opinion of this convention that the authorities who have the naming of such dates should make more efforts to find out proper times for close seasons." This was carried.

As the committee appointed on harmonizing the laws had not been able to deal sufficiently with the subject, it was proposed by E. T. D. Chambers, seconded by D. G. Smith:

"That report of Special Committee on Clause No. 4—Harmonizing of laws of the provinces and states, be deferred until next annual meeting of convention."

Some regret was expressed that more progress was not made in this direction, but the general feeling was that much had been done to promote this desirable end, and that the question was so great as to need further study. Mr. C. H. Wilson moved, seconded by D. G. Smith:

"That this Association form itself into a committee of whole to promote membership and report to the joint secretaries whenever a member signifies his intention of joining."

On motion of D. G. Smith seconded by Mr. E. T. D. Chambers a representative committee from the different provinces and states was appointed under the resolution as the Association's Promotion Committee.

A committee to draft a constitution and bye-laws to be submitted to the next annual meeting was also appointed.

As the business of the Convention was finished, a motion was made that Hon. S. N. Parent leave the chair, to which Hon. A. T. Dunn was called.

Mr. James Dickson, on the part of Ontario, moved a hearty vote of thanks to Hon. S. N. Parent for calling the meeting together, for the able manner in which he had presided, and for the hospitality and courtesy with which he had treated all present.

Mr. J. McCrombie also added his tribute to the merits of the Honorable President.

Mr. D. G. Smith, after referring to the enthusiasm of Hon. Mr. Parent in connection with the convention's work, said they could not but see in this meeting a happy example of the harmony which prevailed among all nationalities and creeds in this country and the neighboring republic, and he heartily seconded the motion.

After others had spoken—Hon. A. T. Dunn, in putting the motion, as a representative of New Brunswick, wished to thank the Chairman for the opportunity afforded of meeting so many gentlemen interested in the preservation of fish and game, and for the splendid hospitality extended to all.

Hon. S. N. Parent, on rising to reply, said he hardly knew what to say. He considered his thanks were due to the gentlemen present for leaving their occupations to accept his invitation, and he considered they had done good work. He had done his best to make the meeting profitable and agreeable, and he was pleased to hear that they were satisfied. He wished to convey his thanks also to the press which had given them great assistance already in making their work known to the public. The greatest work lay before them still, and he hoped to see them all again next year with many others.

The meeting was adjourned until next winter, to meet on two weeks notice from the President. The next meeting will also take place in Montreal.

Before parting "God Save the Queen" was sung by the audience, as was also "The Star Spangled Banner" and the meeting dispersed with cheers for the President.

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A High Authority on Woman's Rights Movement.

Cardinal Gibbons, preaching in the Cathedral, Baltimore, on 4 h instant had this to say on a subject which is quite often before the public now a days. His subject was "The Christian Woman." He said woman is indebted to the Christian religion for the elevated station she enjoys in social and family life. In pagan countries she has no rights which her husband is bound to respect and even in the United States she is too often the victim of pernicious principles and of moral degradation. He said;

"I regard woman's rights women and society leaders in the higher walks of life as the worst enemies of the female sex. They rob woman of all that is amiable and gentle, tender and attractive; they rob her of her innate grace of character, and give her nothing in return but masculine boldness and brazen effrontery.

"They are habitually preaching about woman's rights and prerogatives, and have not a word to say about her duties and responsibilities. They withdraw her from those sacred obligations which properly belong to her sex, and fill her with ambition to usurp positions for which neither God nor nature ever intended her.

"Under the influence of such teachers we find woman, especially in higher circles, neglecting the household duties, gadding about, never at peace unless she is in perpetual motion, never at ease unless she is in a strife of morbid excitement. She never feels at home except when she is abroad.

"When she is at home the house is irksome to her. She chafes and frets under the restraint and responsibility of domestic life. Her heart is abroad. It is exulting in imagination, in some social triumph, or revelling in some scene of gaiety and dissipation. Her afflicted husband comes home to find it empty or occupied by a woman whose heart is void of affection for him. She is all at ease; then arise disputes, quarrels, recrimination, estrangements and the last act in the drama is often divorce.

"I speak in sober truth when I affirm that for the wrecks of families in our country woman has a large share of the responsibility. The remedy for this is found in the teachings of Christ.

"The woman finds the charter of her rights and dignity in the Gospel. The Catholic Church following the epistles of St. Paul, proclaims woman to be his peer of man. But it is chiefly by vindicating the sanctity of the marriage bond that the Church has vindicated the dignity of the female sex.

The Late Lord Ava.

The Sun is indebted to Col. H. H. McLean for a copy of the following telegram sent by C. A. Duff Miller to Lord Dufferin, on behalf of New Brunswick, on learning of the death of his son, Lord Ava, and a copy of Lord Dufferin's reply:

Marquis of Dufferin, Clandeboye, Belfast:—
Beg to offer heartfelt sympathy of province I represent, where your name is as honored as, you personally and Lady Dufferin are beloved.
DUFF MILLER,
Agent General for New Brunswick.

CLANDEBOYE, Co. Down, 16th Jan., 1900.
The Hon. Chas A. Duff Miller, Agent General for New Brunswick:
My Dear Mr. Duff Miller—I need not say how deeply grateful my wife and I are for the kind words of sympathy you have been good enough to send us on behalf of the province of New Brunswick. We well know how kind all the inhabitants of the Dominion have ever shown themselves toward us, and it is indeed a pleasure to think that after the long interval of time, we are not forgotten by those to whom both Lady Dufferin and I were so warmly attached. Ag in thanking you. Be love me,
Yours very sincerely,
DUFFERIN AND AVA

Lord Ava was killed in the same battle as Mr. Duff Miller's cousin, Captain Lafone.

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