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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR

TWELVE PAGES—SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 3 1904—TWELVE PAGES

ONE CENT

BLAIR'S THREAT WAS A SEALARM SIR WILFRID LAUNCHED COVERT REPORT THAT SPIKED GUNS OF DAVID RUSSELL

Political Scheme Was to Discredit Department of Interior by Exploiting Alleged Scandal, Have La Presse Flop Owing to Revelations and Buy up Seven Quebec Liberal Candidates with \$10,000 Apiece.

SOME ONE REVEALED A BLAIR SECRET SANDBAGGING HIM INTO SILENCE

But the Public Wants to Know Who Was Behind Russell in His Daring Plan to Overthrow the Government and Whether There is Anything in the Department of Interior Scandal.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—(Staff Special.)—The circumstances under which Hon. A. G. Blair resigned the chairmanship of the railway commission are gradually coming to light. It now appears that Mr. Blair's resignation was simply part of a scheme hatched in Montreal the object of which was to create a panic just before the general elections.

That the scheme was due to several circumstances, the most important of which was the government's threat to make disclosures if Mr. Blair persisted in carrying out the part which had been allotted to him. Mr. Blair's position today gives color to the story which is coming out. It is now clear that in the statement which accompanied his resignation Mr. Blair was not frank with the public. He declared that he proposed to enter upon more congenial employment and to re-affirm his opposition to the Grand Trunk Pacific railway scheme. Contrary to expectation, he allowed the campaign to close without the means at his command, had obtained control of the Liberal newspapers in St. John City. He was the leader in the movement which culminated in transferring the control of La Presse newspaper to a syndicate of capitalists more or less friendly to the opposition.

Time Will Tell.

What Mr. Blair proposed to do, how he failed and why he failed are chapters in a most interesting story, which is being slowly revealed, and which may yet become the basis of a parliamentary investigation. Several things happened at the time that Mr. Blair resigned the chairmanship of the railway commission. David Russell, the skyrocket promoter, who was opposing the government with all the means at his command, had obtained control of the Liberal newspapers in St. John City. He was the leader in the movement which culminated in transferring the control of La Presse newspaper to a syndicate of capitalists more or less friendly to the opposition. He had any amount of money at his back, and it is stated that two of the strongest railway interests in Canada were giving him their support.

Mr. Russell, it is understood, had access to information which would enable him to discredit the administration in the department of the interior. A retired civil servant is supposed to have supplied this information, and those who know of his character were confident that it would provide a political scandal of such dimensions that the public opinion of the country would be staggered by the revelations.

Seven to Resign.

The information was to be made public a few days before the elections. In pursuance of this agreement, seven Liberal candidates in Quebec, presumably in disgust, but really in consideration of \$10,000 apiece, were to resign their nominations and decline to run in the Liberal interest. It is stated on high authority that these seven Liberal candidates were ready to do their part in the scheme and would have done so but for Mr. Blair's failure to make good at Ottawa. The government, by silencing Mr. Blair's guns, upset the whole scheme.

The plans of the political plotters were further frustrated by the premature announcement of the transfer of La Presse to Conservative interests. It was not intended that the negotiations with La Presse should be publicly announced, nor was it proposed that La Presse should give any indication of this change until a few days before the elections. La Presse, like the seven Liberal candidates, was to turn over on the strength of scandalous revelations in the department of the interior at Ottawa, and was to work with its subscribers between nomination day and polling day. The premature announcement of the transfer of La Presse played right into Sir Wilfrid Laurier's hands.

Sir Wilfrid took prompt action. He had it conveyed to the people who engineered La Presse that if the paper came out against the government, or gave any indication of doing so, he would denounce it among the French-Canadians, show it up as a newly acquired property of English-speaking Conservatives, and in this way ruin the property as a newspaper proposition.

Sir Wilfrid's threat had the desired effect; yet it is probable that if the other parts of the plan had succeeded the new owners of La Presse would have taken chances and would have opposed the government, even at the risk of the loss of prestige which the paper might subsequently have sustained among the French-Canadians. When Blair fell down at Ottawa the whole scheme fell down. The scandal at Ottawa was not unearched. La Presse pursued the even tenor of its way, and the seven Liberal candidates proceeded with their elections as if nothing had happened.

As yet there has been no definite explanation of the means which Sir Wilfrid took to silence Mr. Blair. The generally accepted theory is that the premier secured information which Mr. Blair was unwilling to have made public. It is further stated that this information was obtained through John Lambert Payne, who was private secretary to Mr. Blair and is now secretary to Hon. H. R. Emmerson.

The Consideration.

At all events Sir Wilfrid Laurier's manner of dealing with Mr. Blair was effective, and Mr. Blair suddenly found himself minus the chairmanship of the railway commission, with nothing to fall back on. If the scheme had been carried through as originally outlined, Mr. Blair would have received \$100,000. Of this amount it is stated that \$20,000 was paid him in cash. The next instalment of \$65,000 came in the form of a cancelled debt, and was not satisfactory to Mr. Blair. The \$65,000 was money which Mr. Russell claimed was owed him by Mr. Blair, but the latter declined to look at it in this light. He stated that the \$65,000 was lost in a business deal, that he and Mr. Russell were partners in the loss, and that he was in no way liable for the amount. It was at this juncture that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was able to compel silence on the part of Mr. Blair, and the nature of the final adjustment of the financial part of the scheme is not known.

The question now is, who was with Mr. Russell politically in attempting by such daring means to overthrow the government? He was certainly not acting for himself alone. A large interest he had unquestionably had in desiring to defeat the government, but it is incredible that he acted the part aside from certain political influences. There is already talk of a parliamentary enquiry, and it may be forced at the coming session of the Dominion parliament. It is important to know what truth is in the charge of scandal against the department of the interior, what influences were brought to bear on Mr. Blair which induced him to resign the chairmanship of the railway commission and the pressure that was applied by the government to turn him from his original intention.

These are questions which should be publicly known. The political aspect of the trouble is coming out in spite of the efforts that are being exerted at Montreal and Ottawa to keep it quiet. The coming session of the Dominion parliament may be the occasion of an investigation which will bring the facts to light.

THE VEIL LIFTED.

The World's despatch from Ottawa this morning throws light on one of the most extraordinary political developments of recent times. Our correspondent seems to have got at the truth of the affair. His statement is in case at once disposes of the mystery of Mr. Blair's resignation of the chairmanship of the railway commission. Mr. Blair resigned for a political purpose and abandoned it for reasons which are partly revealed in our Ottawa despatch. At no time did the public take any stock in the theory that Mr. Blair resigned for purely business reasons. If his resignation had been free from political significance it would not have been handed in at a critical stage in the election campaign. It was handed in on Nov. 4, the day after the election, as well as two or three weeks previous to the election. Mr. Blair's resignation was timed and worded to convey a distinct menace to the Laurier government. The government so regarded it, and it now appears that prompt measures to defend itself. We now see that Mr. Blair's resignation was intended to be a trump card in a very desperate game that certain interests, business and political, were playing with the government of Canada as the stakes.

Perhaps the large majority which the government obtained indicates that the game could not have succeeded, even if it had worked out as planned. It must be admitted, however, that the plot involved a grave danger to the government. The scandal in the department of the interior, the resignation of seven Liberal candidates in Quebec, Mr. Blair's active participation in the fight and a quick conversion to conservatism on the part of La Presse newspaper might have gone far towards stampeding the electorate.

Mr. Blair was the chief support of the arch of political conspiracy, and when he fell the whole structure crumbled. The public will not be satisfied with the partial lifting of the veil. The World hopes that its correspondent is correct in his forecast of a parliamentary investigation into the whole scheme which will be laid bare before the public.

Port Arthur's Doom Russians Get Ready For the Inevitable

St. Petersburg, Dec. 2.—With the confirmation of the news that the Japanese have occupied 293 Metre Hill, and the report that the Russians unsuccessfully attempted its capture, officials at the war office are beginning to prepare themselves for the inevitable. Golden Hill and Jackson Hill are higher and dominate 293 Metre Hill, but the officials say that if the Japanese succeed in mounting heavy guns upon the latter it will probably be only a question of days or weeks before the fortress falls. Still there is not the slightest idea among Gen. Stoessel's friends that the fortress will ever be captured, even if it should be ordered to do so.

It is hinted that if the fall of the fortress is shown to be inevitable, the emperor may direct its surrender, in order to prevent the unnecessary sacrifice of the remainder of the garrison. It is thought by those who know Gen. Stoessel best that he will direct the fortress to be blown up by the last man and the last cartridge in Port Arthur.

The ships in the harbor, it can now be stated on high authority, are in no condition to attempt to break through the investing squadron. The guns of the warships were long ago landed, and the mines and saltpetre have been participating in the land defence. Some of the ships also have been injured by shells. If the fortress falls, it is understood they will be taken outside and sunk in deep water in order to prevent the possibility of their ever being of service to the enemy.

The question of the advisability of reinforcing Vice-Admiral Bobolov's fleet with the Black Sea fleet is again being agitated by some of the papers, notably The Novoye Vremya, which points out that with the addition of the Black Sea vessels, Bobolov will insure victory over Admiral Togo's fleet.

The Novoye Vremya calls attention to the fact that Japan was not one of the signatories of the convention of the Dardanelles, and asserts that if Japan had the power she might force an entrance into the Black Sea and engage the Russian fleet. Conversely, the paper continues, with the consent of the Powers there is nothing in the treaty to prevent the exit of the Black Sea fleet to fight some power which is in no way involved in the treaty.

It is argued that Great Britain is the only power which might attempt to make trouble over the junction of the two fleets. The project was warmly approved by some officers of the admiralty before the war, but it was never sanctioned, and the admiralty does not admit that the subject has ever been revived. Neither does the foreign office admit that any pressure is being exercised to secure the consent of the Powers to the passage of the Dardanelles by the Black Sea fleet.

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HER BREAD IS DOUGH.



Rossie (to "Cap," who is doing his best to keep the "vestal fire" alight): I'm cruel disappointed in that there son John. The bread ain't raisin' like it oughter, at all, at all.

CAUTIOUS MR. GRAHAM HARD TO NAIL DOWN BUT LOTT AND REILLY SAW HIM AT HOME

Bogus Ballot Box Investigation Owing to Indisposition of Police Magistrate Wood.

Belleville, Dec. 2.—(Staff Special.)—The ballot box investigation will not be restricted, the appearance of an attorney for the Ontario government indicates that there is a feeling in some quarters that it has gone far enough. It is well known that the prosecution of Editor T. S. Carman for criminal libel is not the main object of the wide-open investigation now going on before Police Magistrate Wood. The real object of bringing out all the evidence concerning the conspiracy to defraud electors by the introduction of fake ballot boxes is to connect the conspirators so far named with men higher up, who are believed to be the real culprits.

Another circumstance that threatens to render the present investigation abortive is the question that has been raised as to the status of the Dominion government authorities. It has been urged, and it is now admitted by men who are supposed to be anxious to pursue the culprits to the end, that the counsel for the Dominion government has no standing in the courts of the province. The authorities who are competent to act are the provincial authorities, but before the appearance of a detective Greer, who accompanied Inspector Chamberlain about for several days and has now dropped out of sight, the attorney-general's department has made no move to assist the private prosecutors in bringing the lesser culprits to justice. It may be that the failure of the attorney-general's department to act promptly will enable the men now watched with peculiar interest by the whole province.

Mr. Graham gave the court to understand that he did not approve of crooked methods and to the local hotel he went at the same time to remind them that he did not approve of outsiders being brought in to investigate the matter. He said that he referred to the bogus ballot boxes, and Mr. DuVerrier lasted half an hour. It was perfectly natural for Lott and Reilly to consult with Mr. Graham, because he was the man in charge of the district. But there were two or three other meetings on which some light may be shed. Mr. Graham admitted seeing Mr. Lott in the Russell House, Ottawa, but he declared emphatically that no connection was the bogus ballot box under discussion.

Mr. DuVerrier questioned the witness a very closely regarding one meeting in which some light may be shed. Mr. Graham declared that "a man of the very high standing" was prepared to swear that he had a big scheme to win West Hastings. This is one of the sensational developments promised for a future session.

Weese Contradicts Bremner.
George Weese, the hotel keeper, who Editor John Bremner was present at the conference in a room in the Somerset House, Toronto, when an attempt was made to induce Bremner to perjure himself, gave a denial to nearly everything Bremner said. He even declared that there was no such meeting. Weese, however, did not deny that he had seen Bremner at the hotel when the editor expressed fears that the lawyers would lead him to pieces. To this Weese replied that he had a "head on him," and he need not tell more than he knew.

Fuddy Moore, a somewhat unorthodox individual, who was a deputy returning officer at the election, and who told of a drive he took with Police Magistrate Harryett from Banroff to Maynooth. He did not know why the trip was undertaken, but "just went along," and thought there was a "game" in the neighborhood of Maynooth. He was ignorant of the dropping of any of the names.

The evidence of Moore was unsatisfactory from the standpoint of the prosecution, and he is expected to be star witness. Some day next week Mr. Vance will be called upon to explain the matter.

AIM TO HEAD IT OFF.

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Let Manitoba's Boundary Go North to Hudson Bay

Premier Roblin Announces Policy of His Government and Re-affirms His Position on Public Ownership of Public Utilities.

Winnipeg, Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The premier-elect for Marquette, will be long remembered in that town as giving an opportunity to R. P. Roblin, premier of Manitoba, to lay down the policy of the government in regard to great public questions. After paying a tribute to Dr. Hoche, the premier proceeded to discuss the public questions of the day, reviewing the late election contest.

He reaffirmed the adherence of the Manitoba government to the doctrine of public ownership, and declared that the franchises of the people should be owned by the people and operated by the people for the people. There was a clear and clean-cut policy that every Canadian should understand and every Canadian should follow. The government over which he presided would use its best endeavors to secure this proper extension. This once accomplished, it would fall within his province to construct the necessary connecting link of the railway, thus giving Manitoba business direct connection with their market in Europe.

WEESE ANNOYS EDITOR BREMNER.

Positive Hotelkeeper Told Him at Somerset House Conference to Perjure Himself.

Belleville, Dec. 2.—(Special.)—John R. Bremner, the Banroff editor who told the story in the witness box last week of the gathering of convention delegates in the Somerset House, Toronto, at which Byron Lott, Magistrate Harryett, George Weese and John J. Kelly were present, may go on the stand again to-morrow and supplement his testimony. The straight denial given his story by George Weese today has annoyed him greatly, and he believes Harryett and Kelly also may contradict him. He told The World to-night that he is positive it was George Weese who told him to kiss his thumb and say "I will not" when taking after the editor to deny all knowledge of the conspiracy.

ROSS GOVT. HAS TRIELED ALLANCE ASKS DEFEAT

Pledges Unfulfilled, Convention Platform a Disappointment and All Claim for Temperance Support Forfeited.

The Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance took action yesterday afternoon in the adoption of a declaration which has been described as representing a "complete desertion of the Ontario government on the temperance question." After detailing the various steps taken by Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. A. S. Hardy and Hon. G. W. Ross towards the alliance platform and stating the events of the recent Liberal convention in which the compromise resolution calling for a municipal prohibition vote in 1906 was rejected, the manifesto proceeds:

"This executive reports that after careful and serious consideration it is forced to the conclusion that the rejection by the convention of this resolution dispels all hope that may have been entertained that the alliance would endeavor to redeem the pledges quoted."

"We regret also that not only did the premier and Hon. Mr. Gibson take no part in supporting this resolution, but that the premier stated that he was 'delighted with the convention's decision upon the temperance question.'"

"In view of the promises made, the overwhelming majority of the voters, and the need for effective measures to check the evils of intemperance, this executive views the situation as now existing with the deepest regret and disappointment. The government has trifled with the great temperance question, has been unfaithful to the pledges and promises of its supporters, and has by its record and recent course on this, the most important issue in provincial politics, forfeited all claim to the support of electors who put temperance principle above partisanship in political affairs."

"Until temperance men determinedly refuse to support any party or candidate that continues to trifle with or ignore this great question," continues the manifesto. "It is manifest that no useful advance can be made until legislation can be hoped for, and recommended the nomination and election of candidates who can be relied upon to secure such legislation, and who would be free from party dictation."

Pro-temperance men appointed a week ago, consisting of Messrs. Carman, Macdonald, Bates and Chown, and Messrs. G. F. Marter, Alex. Mills, J. O. McCarty and J. H. Spence, to meet and discuss the question of a temperance caucus sat for two hours and a half yesterday, and the much discussed caucus was held. The caucus was fairly unanimous, and the declaration prepared was adopted practically without dissent. It is understood that the caucus declaration that occurred was in regard to the proposed caucus of the Conservative party as well as the Liberal, but it was considered better not to mention the name of either party in the declaration, and it is understood that the caucus will be on the 10th inst.

Continued on Page 2.

The Queen of Fur Bearing Animals.

There is no fur on the catalogue of the Alaska Seal, the fur-bearing animal which is the most valuable of the fur-bearing animals. The seal skin is used in Dineen Co's famous jackets, and is also used in the manufacture of the most expensive and dyed in London, England, especially for Dineen. Every garment guaranteed. Call at the big showrooms to-day.

LOCAL SNOWFALLS.

Probabilities. Bay, Ottawa, Lower Lakes, Georgian Bay, Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence. Fresh to strong northerly and northerly winds; continued cold with some light local snowfalls.

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Moutfort... Bristol... Liverpool

Use "Maple Leaf" Canned Salmon The best pack.

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BIRTHS.

BRETT—At 787 Gerrard-st. East, on Friday, Dec. 2nd, the wife of Frank H. Brett of a daughter.

DEATHS.

CARTER—Suddenly, of heart failure, at the residence of his mother, 70 Home-wood-avenue, on Wednesday, November 30, 1904, Edward Wright Carter, third son of the late E. T. Carter, aged 23 years 1 month.

Funeral will take place from his late home Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m.
CARTER—At his late residence, 76 Spadina-avenue, on Thursday evening, the 1st of December, 1904, William Cavan, D.D., in his 74th year.

A private service will be held at the residence on Monday, the 26th, at 11 a.m. Intimate friends of the family are invited to attend this service. The public service will be held at Knox College, Spadina-crescent, at 2 o'clock.

HARR—At Seattle, Wash., U.S., William Harr, aged 47, son of Alexander Harr, 1 Ketchikan-avenue, and brother-in-law of Robert McNeill, 722 Yonge-st., died at Seattle.

JACKSON—At his late residence, 233 Queen-st. West, on Friday, Dec. 2nd, John Henry Jackson, 63rd year, died at his late residence, 233 Queen-st. West, on Friday, Dec. 2nd, at 11 a.m. Friends please accept this intimation.

LOCKE—On Friday morning, at 8 o'clock, Woodbridge, George Locke, aged 63 years. Funeral on Sunday, at 2 p.m., to Methodist Cemetery, Woodbridge.

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