

POOR DOCUMENT

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 16, 1908.

THE TWO LEADERS.

There is only one thing which keeps Mr. R. L. Borden to the front in Canadian politics. This is his reputation as a man worthy of trust because of his personal honor. Mr. Borden is a clean man, and this quality is being worked to good advantage by many of his followers who are unable to satisfactorily pose before the people in the same light. A party which includes in its ranks many such men as the Fosters, Fowlers, Dear Lefurgeys, etc., etc., realizes that its only hold on the electors is by being as its leader one against whom charges or insinuations of double-dealing have not been made. And this very feature extends the weakness of Mr. Borden. In that he lets himself be worked by such men as are leading him to the skies. If it were not for this one qualification for the leadership, Mr. R. L. Borden would speedily sink into insignificance. Last evening's meeting was a fair example of his campaign gatherings. He and two friends kept an audience for three and a half hours, and spent the time in saying nothing. Compare Mr. Borden's puerile criticisms with the masterly review of Liberal achievements and forecast of future development by Premier Laurier at Niagara. The Conservative leader could find nothing new to say, but he and his friends were compelled to go over each in turn as it learned by rote—the same false assertions made four years ago, which have been repeatedly refuted since they were first uttered. If Mr. Borden who now advertises himself as the creator of the famous Halifax platform which has so far been productive of entirely unexpected results in Colchester and elsewhere—if this Mr. Borden could turn back to any one thing which the Conservative party has done for Canada since confederation, his words might be listened to with some interest. But he represents a party which bungled the only important proposition it ever understood, and which in its efforts to straighten out the tangle was exposed in an instant to the full glare of publicity by the revelation of its dishonesty. A party which bungled the only important proposition it ever understood, and which in its efforts to straighten out the tangle was exposed in an instant to the full glare of publicity by the revelation of its dishonesty.

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SHOOTING ROSE.

The shooting season opened yesterday. Benjamin Smith lies at the point of death in his home at Beaver Dam, having been terribly wounded by a bullet fired by his brother, Edward Smith. The latter appears to have entertained the view which seemingly is held by a good many people, that a game license carries the right to shoot whatever may be in sight, and to be possessed with the idea that everything in the woods is a mouse. This is decidedly erroneous. It is not permitted man to kill his brother or his companion. There will be deep sympathy for the victim in the present case, and perhaps even stronger sympathy for the unfortunate who held the rifle. But sympathy is not enough. So long as the law takes no notice of these incidents, just so long will men continue to be killed by careless fools. There was absolutely no reason for the shot fired last evening. The man responsible saw something dark among the trees, and of course felt certain that it was a mouse and that he should kill it. He did not take the trouble to ascertain what the object was. He guessed it to be a mouse. He fired, and the bullet went through the body of his brother. If the victim in this case dies, Smith is a murderer, not a wilful nor malicious murderer, but one who has committed a crime through criminal carelessness. And so long as such carelessness is excused, so long will brothers and companions die. It is the duty of the government to decree, as has been done elsewhere, that the one who in the woods inflicts death or injury by the careless use of firearms shall be liable to prosecution and punishment for murder or doing bodily harm, just as though such crimes were wilfully committed. If men have not sense enough to exercise their own accord, a sufficient caution, they should be taught how to respect the rights and lives of others.

THE HALF HOLIDAY.

There are apparently a few merchants not wholly in sympathy with the Thursday half holiday plan, and some of these express the intention of keeping their places of business open while their fellows comply with the request made by the mayor. It is admitted that the half holiday suggestion was neglected until the last moment, that to be favorably received by all it should have been broached a month ago, and the views of all business men obtained. But this is not the fault of the mayor. It is his duty to comply with the wishes of citizens, and not to force upon them anything which may appear undesirable. But on Monday and yesterday a large number of merchants, having talked the matter over among themselves, requested Mayor Bullock to act. As many as possible were asked to approve the suggestion, and as the time was extremely limited it was felt that, when an objection was offered, it would be better to declare the holiday than to lose time by waiting for a thorough canvass of the city.

The experience of St. John has been that no money is lost to merchants by closing their places of business for a half day. Buyers, being aware that such is to be done, make their purchases in time, and merchants can have no reasonable ground for serious objection. If any feel that in the present case they should have first been consulted, they will no doubt generously accept the explanation that time was limited and it was impossible to call on everybody. It is better to arrange this half holiday at the eleventh hour than not to do it at all.

"I thought your bank wasn't going to give any vacation this year," "It didn't intend to," replied the assistant cashier, brown from a long outing, "but I put on an anxious look and puttered over my books so long they insisted on my taking a rest."

"So they could examine your accounts?" "And they found them in such elegant shape that when I struck for a raise they had to give it."

"It is no trick at all to be honest."

"Is that so?"

"Yes."

"How do you know?"

"The stupidest men I know are all honest."

"Are you fond of entertaining callers?"

"Yes," answered the lady addressed, "but few of mine are that variety."

"Master—I'm sorry to hear, Pat, that your wife is dead."

"Patrick—Pat an 'tis a sad day for us all, sir! The hand that rocked the cradle has kicked the bucket."

"It takes a baby more two years to learn to talk," said Uncle Eben, "and it takes a day of his lifetime to learn to keep his mouth shut."

"He is as long as your finger and as broad as the blade of a kitchen knife, and he has legs on him that can take him over the side of your ship's cabin so quick all you can see is a blur. He also smells, but that we won't talk about."

"Well, sir, this cockroach got south of Singapore and east of Aden, all the way down to Australia. What makes him so bothersome is his feeding habits. He'll come up to you at night and gnaw all your toenails off if you happen to be a heavy sleeper like myself; yes, he'll gnaw 'em down to the quick. Not fingernails, just toenails he prefers."

"Not only that, but he'll eat all the waxed thread out of your shoes. You wake up in the morning and start to put on your shoes and the uppers fall apart from the soles and you've got nothing but worthless leather strips to show for your good pair of brogue shoes."

"He likes horn buttons. Just hang up your coat with horn buttons in a cabin where the cockroach is and next morning you'll find they've eaten all the buttons up, right down to the thread."

"Why, know what the skippers do when their boats get overrun with these cockroaches? They go ahead and beach her somewhere and open the sea-cocks. The water floods the hold and the cabins right up to the deck and you can see those cockroaches floating off so thick they look like tea grounds in a pot."

"The ancient mariner paused to roll another cigarette for his better case of nerves, then continued:

"Now you can't exactly call him a bug, that 4 o'clock down Venezuela way; you can't call him a bug; but he's worse than any bug form. He's poison, deadly poison."

"The 4 o'clock lives only in Venezuela; whenever they change the

boundary line down there he moves back so as to be always in Venezuela. Or say you'd call him, and he always lives in the same bush with a tarantula. Find a tarantula and you'll find a 4 o'clock right next door."

"Well, sir, the strange thing about these 4 o'clocks is that when they bite you you always die at 4 o'clock. I guess that's where they get their names."

"Say you are bitten at 11 o'clock in the morning; you'll die at 4 that afternoon. Or say you're bitten at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, you'll linger until 4 o'clock next morning. There is absolutely sure death about the 4 o'clock's bite and its sure death at just the minute the hands of the clock point to the figures 12 and 4."

"I got bit by a 4 o'clock once by mistake and I tell you it was pretty dreary. What?"

"Oh, no, of course I didn't; at five minutes of 4 that afternoon I blew up the bite with gunpowder and that saved me. Ever have to blow up your leg with gunpowder? It isn't nice."

"Now, that reminds me of the whale flea; he's a strange bug when you stop and think about it. First time I saw a whale flea was up at Herschel Island, off the north coast of Alaska. I thought it was a rat, he was so big."

"Of course you never find bugs on fish; but a whale isn't a fish, you know, so he's got bugs. This whale flea is about as big as a rat, as I said, and he's got such strong hind legs he can jump from one end of a right or Greenland whale to the other in a little over three jumps."

"The peculiar thing about this whale flea is he's got both gills and lungs. When he tackles onto a big man whale and the whale dives the flea just naturally uses his gills like any fish; but when the whale comes up to blow or sleep all the flea's got work around on the upper deck and use their lungs for breathing."

"Those whale fleas certainly bother whales terribly. They have a way of catching on to the tender parts right under his flippers and behind his ears—especially the ears of the male eared variety of Alaskan whale, which I must say is a rare specimen—and they chew right into the whale's vitals. The whales stand it as long as they can and then they take a desperate remedy to rid themselves of the pests."

"They deliberately go up where the ice does are forming and get packed in a freezing fog. There they stay practically frozen in the ice until the whale fleas, whose fur isn't so long as it might be, die of exposure. I've seen ice floes with dozens of these whale fleas frozen in about a great cylindrical space where the whale has been. Because the fleas are too slippery; only on thatched houses."

"Why I've known some of the warbling katydid to accompany a zebra girl on her samian when she was singing to a dance. And a fellow I used to know in Nagoya kept a warbling katydid for four years and taught him to sing the Japanese national anthem, the 'Kimigayo.' Ever heard the 'Kimigayo' played? Well if you did you could understand how easy it'd be for a warbling katydid to imitate it."

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