

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON - Proprietor.

Business Office No. 53 A.
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

FOSTER AS A FINANCIAL EXPERT.

There is a phase of the candidature of Mr. Foster in North Ontario which is neither political nor personal, but of a purely business character. An experienced public financier — one of the three or four best-informed men in Canada in the intricacies of Federal finance—is offering to give his services, without salary, to this very branch of the national business. A man who was for years Dominion Finance Minister, and is many times better equipped to consider with informed intelligence the financial proposals of the Government than any other available politician, expresses his willingness to attend the sessions of the national "board of directors" and criticize these immensely important proposals from a standpoint independent, at all events, of the Government which makes them.

If this proposition were transferred to the business world, there would be no hesitation about its acceptance. Any meeting of shareholders, which was not carried in the pocket of the dominating directors, would send such a man to the board if he were available. Certainly, any business house would accept such expert assistance, especially if—as in this case—it was to cost them nothing.

But other questions confuse the business side of Mr. Foster's offer. He is the candidate of a party, and will try to put the present Government out; and he is a strong political leader; and may tend to throw into the shade lesser political figures on his own side. He stands for as much distinctness of policy as there is in our mingled politics; and he is personally ambitious. Although he is offering his services for the moment without other charge than his indemnity, he hopes to collect such magnificent fees as party success and, possibly, the Finance portfolio again.

We put these things down baldly in order that none may imagine that we have forgotten them. They are phases—and important phases — of the Foster candidature. Circumstances could easily arise under which any man's policy, or party affiliations, would make it simply impossible to accept his services as an expert critic of any kind. We are not contending that a man's personality or business equipment should lead to his election, when that election would constitute a victory for a bad policy or a bad party.

But to-day in Canada party lines are hardly drawn so closely and party issues are hardly cut so clearly that the personality of a candidate should not count. In fiscal matters, even the question as to whether there is much real difference between the two parties is in dispute. And surely under such circumstances—if ever—the community might with safety consider the fact that one of the candidates before it at a certain election is a man to whom, if the country were managed like a business corporation, we would be eagerly offering a large salary to do the very work he desires to do for nothing. North Ontario has the opportunity of securing to the country the services of a financial critic who probably has no equal in public life except Sir Richard Cartwright; and if it has any other issue of equal importance before it at this time—to be entirely frank—we fail to discern it.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER AND HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER.

For eighteen years J. S. Willison has been the editor of the Toronto Globe, points out the Montreal Star. During these eighteen years the Toronto Globe has been a bitter opponent of the Conservative party, the Conservative policy and the Conservative leaders. Nothing that was done by the Conservatives was good. Nothing that was done by the Liberals was bad. Sir John Macdonald was a traitor to his country. Sir Charles Tupper a freebooter. Sir John Thompson a Jesuitical hypocrite. It is evident the policy of the Globe during these eighteen years was made by its directors; not by its shareholders in general, and not by its editor, Willison. No sooner does the Liberal party come to power than the Globe clique persuades the Government to help it to plunder the country by getting practical gifts of public lands. Thereupon J. S. Willison resigns from the Globe to edit an independent paper, backed by a millionaire, who wants to see corrupt methods in politics frowned down by the public sentiment of the country. Mr. Flavelle, a man of large means and good intentions, says: "I will spend half a million dollars in a newspaper to give it a national circulation to educate the people to abhor corruption." Bravo, Flavelle! Freed from the fetters of partyism,

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given a free hand to write his mind. Mr. Willison gives the public some refreshing glimpses of the man's real feelings. These glimpses show that Mr. Willison, while working on salary for a band of hidebound partisans owning the Toronto Globe as an auxiliary asset, while exploiting the public domain, must have written and fretted under the domination of the clique. The public are now being treated to Mr. Willison's real opinions. In his paper of Monday, February 16, Mr. Willison gives us an interesting article upon public men and the election of North Ontario. While not overlooking the weakness of the party to which they belong, Mr. Willison, the ex-editor of the Toronto Globe, says of Mr. Foster and Sir Charles Tupper, apropos of the North Ontario by-election:

The contest is likely to excite great and general interest throughout the country. There is no doubt that the Government would like to defeat Mr. Foster. The chief importance of the contest in North Ontario lies in the fact that Mr. Foster's presence in Parliament would materially strengthen the Opposition, and that he would bring to bear upon the discussions of the House of Commons a long experience in office and a thorough knowledge of methods of administration. As we have said more than once, it is of importance that the Opposition should be strengthened, not so much in the interests of the party as in the interests of the country. No criticism is so effective as that of the man who knows the inner workings of the departments, and all the devices by which troublesome questions are postponed, and inconvenient enquiries set aside. Here, at least, Mr. Foster will be exceedingly useful, and it goes without saying, that a wholesome fear of searching criticism is good for any Government. It (the Conservative party) is seeking to live upon its past, and to build up its shattered fortunes upon the faults and misdeeds of its opponents. This, within certain bounds, is legitimate enough; but more is required to give enthusiasm and vitality to a great political organization. This is particularly true of a party which enjoyed for so many years the great personal ascendancy of Sir John Macdonald, and the bold, constructive genius of Sir Charles Tupper.

It is for the moment the fashion to depreciate the aged Nova Scotian, but history will give him a great place in the story of confederated Canada. With all his faults he was essentially a policy-maker and a constructive statesman. His work was done when the country needed building, and it was done boldly and courageously. The party which he helped to create will never be content with the mere business of attack and criticism, and whatever legitimate pride it may have in its past, it must look for a future in keeping with the traditions of a critic, for which he has such something higher in politics than of office-holding or office-seeking, and something nobler in government than the distribution of patronage. But, beyond all this, if only to do the work of a critic, for which he has such exceptional qualifications, Mr. Foster should be in Parliament, and, therefore, we should like to see the Conservative leaders go into North Ontario, and make a united and determined effort to secure his election.

A party of British M.P.'s is being organized to visit Canada next summer and learn something of its development and possibilities. It would be a good idea to get up a party of Canadian M.P.'s to make a personal in-

spection of their own country. There are many who have never travelled through their own land.

PROSPECTIVE HONOR FOR CHATHAM.

Detroit Tribune.
If Chatham keeps on with its oil discoveries it may yet gain a nod of recognition from Mr. Rockefeller.

PRIVILEGES OF THE BENCH IN B. C.

New Denver Ledger.
Montana must be a queer state. Over there charges of justification against a superior court judge have recently been investigated. And yet the United States boasts of its freedom. It isn't in it with British Columbia. In this glorious province a judge can drink a barrel of booze in a day if he wishes and no one raises the red flag. Montana should watch our smoke if it wants to get the proper curl in judicial affairs.

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Royal suitings, a fine pure wool twill suitings, 50 inches wide, rich, smooth finish, colors navy and black, regular 75c a yard, special at 50c.

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At 49c yard—25 pieces dress goods, including 56 inch all wool grey homespuns, 54 inch navy chevrons, 54 inch all wool habit suitings, 48 inch Amaranth suitings, 48 inch pink suitings, 44 inch French suitings, etc., regular prices 75c, 85c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 per yard, clearing at sale price 49c.

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Cashmere hose, the biggest bargain of the season—258 pairs ladies' fine pure wool cashmere rib hose, elastic knit, double heels and toes, seamless feet, regular 40c a pair, special sale price 25c.

322 pairs children's cashmere hose, sizes 5 to 8 1-2, fine heavy pure wool rib cashmere, 3-ply knees, double heels and toes, seamless feet, regular value 35c to 45c a pair, sale price 25c.

Men's underwear bargains—38 only men's fine heavy wool and cotton fleeces lined undershirts, assorted sizes, double cuff bands, regular 50c to 60c each, clearing sale price each 36c.

Table linens—4 pieces heavy cream table linen, 56 inches wide, firm weave, choice designs, special sale price a yard 25c.

Three pieces bleached table damask, rich, heavy double damask, pure grass bleach, rich satin finish, in choice designs, regular value 90c yard, sale price 75c.

9c shaker flannels at 6c yard—700 yards fine heavy shaker flannels, 32 inches wide, soft fleecy finish, in large range of light and dark stripe patterns, fast colors, regular 8c and 9c yard, sale price 6c.

300 yards white lace stripe muslins, pretty designs, regular 8c to 10c yard, sale price 5c.

800 yards crystal cord dress muslins, fine imported quality, in large variety of pretty designs and colorings, fast dyes, regular 15c yard, sale price 10c.

Dress skirt bargain—Firm heavy black wool frieze, rich bright finish, made with full graduated flounce, six clusters fine cording with 4-row rich satin bands, best linings and finish, assorted sizes, the best \$5.00 skirt in the city, sale price \$3.98.

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Flannelette wrappers at 98c—All our fancy flannelette wrappers, very pretty styles, with deep flounced skirt, lined waist, choice patterns, fast dyes, sizes 32 to 42, regular up to \$1.50 each, sale price 98c.

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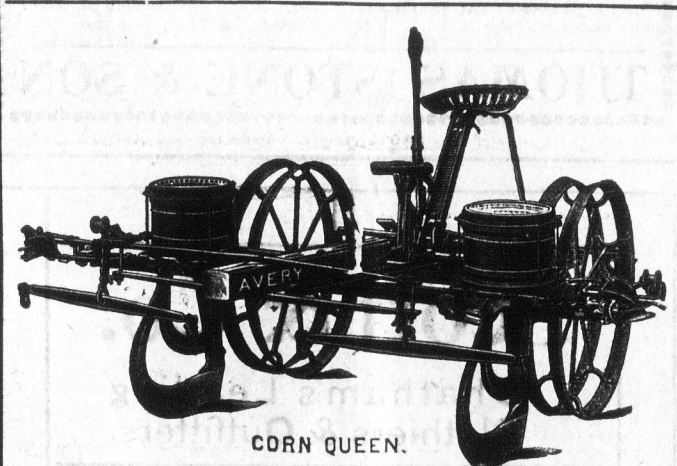
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