

The Evening Times and Star

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AN APPEAL ON THE EVE OF BATTLE

This is the last word the Times will have the opportunity of speaking to the electors of St. John before the battle of ballots is begun. The issue to be decided tomorrow is the most important that has been submitted to the Canadian people, and especially to the people of St. John and the maritime provinces, for very many years. We are offered a large free market for the natural products of the country. It is the duty of the people to consider very seriously not only what will happen if they accept the offer, but what may happen if it is rejected. The United States is and always will be our neighbor along a border line of three thousand miles. More than half of our trade with the whole world last year was with that country. They are a people speaking the same language and having the same traditions as ourselves. Their country is the natural market for a great deal that Canada produces. This is more especially true with regard to the maritime provinces. In the trade agreement which is now to be accepted or rejected the United States concedes much more to Canada than is conceded by this country. The agreement is one which can be terminated at will, if the time should ever come, which we do not believe, when it would no longer be satisfactory to the Canadian people. If we reject this friendly offer, will not such rejection arouse in the United States a very natural feeling of irritation? Suppose that it did, and that an effort should be made in that country to arouse prejudice against Canada, with the motto "no truck with Canadians," such has been encouraged by the Conservatives in this country for several months past. Would that be good for Canadian trade? Would such a condition be pleasing to King George and his ministers, who have just signed a sweeping arbitration treaty with the United States? There can be but one answer. In the best interests of Canada and the Empire the trade agreement should be ratified. It will make Canada more prosperous, and will add not only to the strength of the Empire but to the influences now exerted on both sides of the Atlantic to promote an Anglo-Saxon alliance, which would mean so much to the peace of the world.

With regard to the interests of the city of St. John, in no campaign in recent years has there been so much at stake. The policy of the present government is to make St. John a great national port, and this involves the expenditure of many millions of dollars, and the rise of a new town on the eastern shore of Courtenay Bay. The answer to all the Conservative assertions about danger to east and west trade lies in the simple fact that the great railway companies do not believe a word of it, and are going on providing facilities to handle an enormously increased trade. In a very important sense the future of the port of St. John is heavily involved in this campaign. To vote against the government candidates is to vote against St. John.

To the Liberal workers and to those Conservatives who are with them in this fight, the Times would appeal to devote tomorrow to the service of St. John, and of a prosperous and united Canada. Let no other consideration intervene. Bring out the vote. See that every elector visits both the city and county booths. Roll up such a majority for Dr. Pugsley and Mr. James Lowell as will convince Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government that St. John appreciates what has been done, and stands by the government which proposes to do so much more, to make St. John one of the great sea ports of the Atlantic coast.

The Liberal party has never entered a campaign with candidates whom it could more confidently commend to the good will and support of the citizens of St. John. Hon. William Pugsley has represented St. John not only in parliament but in the cabinet, and has conducted the affairs of a great department in such a manner as to command the approval of his colleagues and the country. No man in Canada has taken a broader view of transportation matters, and the importance to Canada of having a great transportation system, with seaports fully equipped to handle its sea-borne commerce. It was in pursuance of this policy that Dr. Pugsley began the great work now in progress at the port of St. John, the completion of which will make this one of the best equipped ports on the whole Atlantic coast. The interests of St. John and the province of New Brunswick have been faithfully served by Dr. Pugsley, and he should be sent back to parliament with a larger majority than that of 1908.

With regard to Mr. James Lowell, he is by no means an untried man. In the municipal council and provincial legislature he has had valuable experience in legislative work. He is thoroughly familiar with matters affecting the welfare of St. John, and in his work as a legislator has done valuable service. He is a man of high integrity, popular with the people at large, and as a representative will faithfully keep his word, to devote himself to the interests of his constituents. It is most important that he be sent to Ottawa to strengthen the hand of the minister of public works. A vote for Pugsley and Lowell tomorrow will be a vote for St. John.

The Conservatives have no hope of defeating the government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will have a large majority. St. John should give him two supporters. Dr. Pugsley pointed out on Monday evening that the city in 1908 made the mistake of sending to Ottawa a representative who was not in sympathy with his plans for the development of St. John. No such mistake must be made tomorrow.

The Times is unable to say just what wild appeal to fear or prejudice, or what glaring untruth the Standard may present tomorrow morning in a last reckless attempt to turn votes away from the Liberal candidates. It may even be that the Standard, recognizing the certainty of defeat, may make no such appeal at all. The events of the last two or three days have, however, shown the people of St. John how utterly unreliable are the statements made in that newspaper.

The record of the election campaign which closes tomorrow will be remarkable because of the contrast between the appeals of the two parties for popular support. The government party has confined itself to a clear statement of the real issue, with only such reference to the statements of the Conservatives as seemed now and then necessary. The appeal of the government was made in behalf of a definite policy. On the other hand, the Conservatives have had no definite policy to present. They have appealed on different grounds in different provinces. Unable to beat down the arguments of their opponents on the real issue, they conjured up boogies, made wild appeals to fear and prejudice, and even dragged the flag of their country into the turmoil of a partisan campaign.

If the electors of St. John desire to see the great harbor works carried out; if they desire to retain here all of the present lumber mills, operated under more favorable conditions than at present; if they desire to see a revival of the coasting trade; they should vote for the men and the policy which will insure that result. The men are Dr. Pugsley and Mr. Lowell, and the policy is reciprocity.

Conservatives are telling the market gardeners near St. John that they will be ruined under reciprocity, because of the importation of American produce. They have even said that there is at the present time American produce rotting in the fields because there is no market. On the other hand these same Conservatives are telling the workmen in St. John that the cost of living to them will be greatly increased, because all the produce will be shipped away to the American market, making the prices they will have to pay very much higher. All this is part of a determined effort to frighten both producers and consumers, and drag them into voting for the Conservative candidates. The trick is too transparent.

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 "What for?"  
 "He couldn't think of anyway of still using the smoke."

HORSE AND HORSE.  
 "Your dog howls every time I sing. Why don't you stop him?"  
 "I will. But I didn't know what really happened."  
 "What do you mean?"  
 "Why, I thought you were trying to spite us by singing every time our dog howled."  
 "TOMMY NO GENTLEMAN."  
 Mother—"Just run upstairs, Tommy, and fetch baby's nightgown."  
 Tommy—"Don't want to."  
 Mother—"Oh, well, if you're going to be unkind to your new little sister she'll put on her wings and fly back to Heaven."  
 Tommy—"Then let her put on her wings and fetch her nightgown."  
 "PROOFS NOT DEMANDED."  
 "Biggins is a great fisherman."  
 "He never catches anything."  
 "No. But nothing he could catch would be as interesting as what he tells about."  
 "Washington Star."  
 "Be not simply good; be good for something."

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