The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1922.

SIR LOMER GOUIN'S MISTAKE.

Sir Lomer Gouin made what the Winnipeg Tribune calls "an unfair and very clumsy attack" on Mr. Meighen when he referred to "bitterness against the Province of Quebec" on the part of the latter, as if any part of his politics was inspired by race prejudice. "With all Mr. Meighen's faults," says the Tribune, "there has never been a public man in Canada more free from anything of the kind. If anything, he is too wrapped up in the purely intellectual consideration of public matters, and too remote from the sympathies and, if you will, prejudices of his fellow men."

The insinuation was extremely malodroit coming from Sir Lomer Gouin, for his position in Parliament is one of the things most apt to stir race prejudice. On two major matters of policy and administration he differs from the platform of the party in the one case, and from its declared intentions in the other. He represents the big financial interests of Montreal who are at hopeless variance with the people of Canada on the railway question, and with the platform of the Liberal party on the tariff.

Sir Lomer Gouin and the group supporting him in Parliament are enabled to occupy this position because of a racial solidarity in Quebec which permits men of the most divergent political views to continue to call themselves Liberals, and to remain within a party with whose expressed convictions they have little or nothing in common.

This racial solidarity at the polls was also the basis of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's long lease of power. It was his boast that he used it for the general advantage of the whole country, that he subordinated the interests of Quebec, and made Quebec serve Canada instead of making Canada serve Quebec. Whether this boast was fully justified in the career of Sir Wilfred Laurier, we have not yet sufficient historical perspective to determine. Some of his greatest opponents will assert that it was the animating motive of his life. At any rate he long maintained the support of a large number of people whom any other attitude would have assuredly antagonized.

Sir Lomer Gouin and his group possess their power and influence through the same factor in Canadian politics as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but their problem is different. It is not the sectional interest of Quebec which Sir Lomer Gouin has to subordinate to the national interests of Canada, but the interest of big business in Montreal with which he is representative in a most intimate way.

It was to this feature of his position that Mr. Meighen drew attention, not to the racial solidarity of the Quebec voter with which there is no use in quarrelling, so long as the elector is free to exercise his privilege of the franchise as he pleases. It is not the method by which Sir Lomer Gouin has obtained his power, but his purpose in its use which is in question. He has been perfectly open and candid in his expression of his views. This may be some guarantee that he will furnish a pleasant surprise to those who have viewed his active participation in the Government of the country with fear and foreboding.

"NEWS," OR SOMETHING ELSE.

For utter piffle, some of the stuff that comes from provincial centres to certain of our city contemporaries under the guise of "news," cannot well be beaten. Some of it puts in the shade even the scavengings of the corner groceys. On Saturday for instance the readers of one of the afternoon dailies were informed by its Fredericton correspondent that an early effort might be made to provide a seat in the Legislature for Mr. Palmer, the new leader of the Opposition party. Since when, may we ask, could it be assumed that Premier Foster would be willing to help the leader of his political opponents to this extent? He must have experienced a very sudden change of heart, to become thus complaisant.

It has been suggested, says the despatch, that one of the members for York might resign and thus create an opening, and the name of Mr. John A. Young has been coupled with the suggestion. Why Mr. Young rather than anyone else, please? That gentleman will probably feel very much obliged to the originators of the idea for the somewhat free use made of his name in this connection. He will probably see no more reason why he should relinquish $1000 a year for the next two or three years than any of his colleagues. Anyone would think from reading the Fredericton report that all that was necessary to be done would be for Mr. Young to say to the new leader: "Here you are, old chap, take my seat, you need it more than I do." The fact that a by-election would be necessary is completely ignored, and calling of by-elections is not one of Premier Foster's strong points—unless his own candidate has a five to one chance of getting in.

Another equally questionable suggestion "said to have come from some St John enthusiast" was that Mr. Palmer might become the Opposition candidate in St. John County. Apart from the fact there are several local men who aspire to that honor, there is this feature to be taken into consideration, that if Hon. Mr. Baxter, with all his prestige as Ex-Attorney-General, leader of the party, and holder of the seat for eight years, could only manage to retain it by eight votes, what sort of chance would a total stranger to the constituency have? St. John County is so evenly divided in political affiliations, that only strong men on either side can hope for success.

Payment of irresponsible country correspondents at space rates has a lot to answer for, and the news editor who lets such stuff get by, has even more.

WHEAT CONTROL.

The demand presented by Mr. Wood, of Alberta, for a renewal of the Wheat Board, is an ultimatum to the King Government. The Government contains members like W. R. Motherwell, who based his campaign in the West on promises to renew Government control of the marketing of the crop, an dit contains members who are disinclined to get back to the emergency devices of the war crisis. The Conservative Opposition has demanded a decision on the matter, and offered to suspend the present debate on the Address in order that the Western farmers may be satisfied, before planting time, respecting conditions under which they will market their wheat.

During the campaign, as the Mail and Empire points out, Mr. Meighen offered the West a scheme of a voluntary pool. This was highly commended by many Western business men, among them men who strongly opposed Mr. Meighen politically. The voluntary pool does not invade the right of any farmer, or trader, to do as he sees fit with his own produce. The pooling of even a large part of the Western crop would put into operation a strong regulating force, capable of exercising an important influence on international quotations. If Mr. King, who dodged a direct stand on this matter when he was in the West last, grants a compulsory pool, such as the Wheat Board operated, he will tread on many tender toes in the West. If he does not, he will have to adopt Mr. Meighen's practical expedient. The official leaders of the Grain Growers' Association may have strong convictions on the benefits of a renewed Wheat Board, but the body of Western farmers is not at all unanimous respecting it. The success of the Wheat Board in making the participation certificates worth almost half of the net price received by the farmer for wheat during the December and January slump has not deceived the more astute traders respecting the changed conditions under which a Board for 1922 would have to operate.

There is, however, need for some central organization, financed by the Government of the banks, which will make advances of, say, 75 cents a bushel on wheat at the beginning of the market season, and hold the wheat for regulated selling. Millions of dollars could be saved to the producers by a financing system that would prevent dumping of huge supplies at one time on markets that naturally give way. Grain speculators who buy in September, October and December, calculate on good profits in February, March and April from the change in the market pressure. After the crop is out of primary hands, quotations go up. The outlook is for better wheat prices next Autumn, but assurance from the Government of a stable plan for handling the situation would be of immense help in putting the West really to work.

It was agreed by the Convention on Friday, before the scrutineers were appointed, that no figures in connection with the voting should be given out. Apparently the temptation to talk was more than one of the scrutineers could resist, for the figures were known within a short time after the proceedings were over.

The Globe's "Gallery Man" suggested a day or two ago that the Government should nail down for its own use any good plank in the Opposition platform. For what purpose? The Liberal party has no use for a platform, except to get in on, as Mr. Fielding says. The Provincial Government party had a platform in which economy and retrenchment were the main planks—before it got into office; but having got in, promptly disavowed it. Same with the Federal party. Its platform became only a "chart," to be followed or not as the exigencies of the situation might make desirable.

The idea that the agricultural community in New Brunswick is prosperous must be altogether erroneous. In order that several thousand farmers might have an agricultural periodical to read, the Provincial Government last year paid no less than $4,899 in subscriptions to the Maritime Farmer—which costs $1 a year—to be sent to members of agricultural societies. Why?

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Sympathy for Premier.

(London Free Press.)

Canadians, irrespective of politics, will extend sympathy to Hon. Mackenzie King in the death of his only brother, Dr. MacDougal King, at Denver, after a brave 10 years' fight against tuberculosis. Dr. King practiced medicine in Ottawa for several years, where he was recognized in his chosen profession as clever and conscientious. His collapse in 1912 was due to overwork. Following an attack of pneumonia he developed tuberculosis and was forced to seek relief in Colorado.

Dr. King, a true scientist studied closely his own case, and several years ago published a volume entitled, "The Battle With Tuberculosis and How to Win it." This book has had wide circulation in medical and scientific circles. Dr. King himself believed he had won his fight against the dread disease and returned to private practice. Apparently, though, he took the step too soon.

What Washington Accomplished.

(Boston Globe.)

The agreement to scrap battleships and inaugurate a Naval holiday is not the chief source of encouragement which the taxpayer may derive from the Washington Conference. If Governments want to fight, they will never lack weapons. The big accomplishment of the Conference was the inauguration of a good habit—the habit of getting together to discuss ways and means of keeping the world at peace. International co-operation means "safety first." It also means relief for the taxpayers of the future, for most of the expense in connection with armaments results after they have been used.

The Worm Will Turn.

(London Daily Express.)

When some nation of oppressed foreigners is in danger of persecution meetings are held in Trafalgar Square, resolutions are passed, indignation is roused to a white heat. Do such things ever happen as a protest against the price of tobacco, in which, truth to tell, the average Englishman is far more interested than in the sufferings of any other nation, however oppressed? Never. He cares too much. He thinks it would be "bad form." Somebody might twit him on his fondness for tobacco. It is shyness of this kind that has given us our not wholly deserved reputation for national hypocrisy. Yet the price of tobacco remains, and the Briton is a heavy smoker. He is silent. But, like the parrot, he is a "devil to think."

An American View.

(Springfield Republican.)

There will be no surer way of solidifying the entire popular sentiment of Canada behind the National Railways than for Wall Street to try to browbeat the Canadian Government into fixing them up. As a matter of fact there is no authority for the Wall Street Journal's prediction that the Government-owned lines, if run for private profit, "could in a few years be made to carry themselves." They have been built in advance of the country's population and economic needs, and will never pay until population and business yield sufficient traffic to support them. The Canadian Pacific offered to take them over only on condition that its own dividends were guaranteed by the Government.

The Heart of the Nation is Sound.

(Johannesburg Sunday Times.)

What the extremists are apt to forget in the excitement of the moment is that the mining strike is taking place in a very small corner of South Africa. Beyond the Reef there are tens of thousands of South Africans who are determined that large issues shall not be settled by menacing the security of the public. Some time ago it was denied that revolutionary ideas were being put forward. In the face of some of the strike oratory on the Rand the denial is worthless. There is undoubtedly very wild talk amongst one section of the men; but if any attempt is made to translate it into action there will be a national rally to the side of the authorities. We are hopeful that the bulk of the mine workers will give the extremists no support and that peace will be maintained. But we feel it our duty to say plainly that if a policy of violence is adopted the people of South Africa as a whole will back up the Government in resisting it to the bitter end.

A Tottering Empire.

(Boston Transcript.)

England has built up a world empire, and to that empire her economic existence has been committed. It is the empire which has fed and clothed England's people, and now the empire seems to be falling to pieces. Egypt is practically gone; India, which means more, is going. The Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa may be politically friendly and sentimentally united to Britain, but they constantly evolve and proceed nearer to economic self-support. British exports to these countries have fallen to a low mark. Millions in England are unemployed, and are likely to remain so, and £350,000,000 sterling had to be appropriated in the last year from the public treasury for their support. English economists assure the public that England is overpopulated and must send millions of men abroad if they are to live. Enforced emigration, even, is talked of. What a condition has arisen when it is proposed in any country to expatriate a considerable mass of its people in order that the rest may live in it!

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was thinking and I was doing my lessins against my will and the fellows started to wiste for me outside and I sed, Horray, my lessins are all done, can I go out for about 15 minuts or a hour, pop?

You say your lessins are done? sed pop.

Yes sir, I sed, and pop sed, But are they well done?

Yes sir, perfeckly, I sed, and pop sed, Im glad to heer it but sorry to doubt it, hand me your list of history questions.

Me thinking, Aw heck. And I handed pop my homework book with the questions rote in and pop started to heer me my history, saying, Wat did Balboa do, and wen?

He was a Spanierd, I sed.

Well, we wont hold that agenst him, sed pop. And it dident say enything, and pop sed, Well, well, wat did he do and wen?

Do you meen wen did he do it? I sed.

I dont meen a thing, wat did he do and wen, the name of the gentleman under discussion is Balboa, in case you have forgotten that miner detail, sed pop.

He discovered something, I sed.

Ah, the safety razer, perhaps, sed pop, and I sed, No sir, and he dident discover America either, Columbiss discovered America in 1492, thats wat Columbiss did and wen.

Yes, and it was quite spoarty of him too, but speaking of Balboa, how about him, and wen? sed pop.

Aw G, pop, thats the very question I dident know, I sed.

Id never of gessed it, do your lessins, sed pop. And he threw the book back to me and I dident say enything more about going out, and neither did pop.

THE LAUGH LINE

An impatient customer in a confectionery store rapped sharply on the counter.

"Here, young lady," she called, "who waits on the nuts?"

A little tulle, a yard of silk;
A little skin, as white as milk.
A little strap. How dare she breathe!
A little cough—"Good evening, Eve."
—Punch Bowl.

Porter—"Carry yo' bag, boss? Never 'bus' a bottle yet."

Mistaken.

Tired Worker—"Boss, is you got a nigger on yo' book name Simpson?"

Boss—"Yeah. What about it?"

T W.—"Wal, Is'e dat nigger, boss—I jest thought you done had it down Samson, dat's all."

"We can save money by not advertising."

"Yes," replied the advertising man, "and you can also save money by not eating."—Detroit Free Press.

Exposed.

A new man got a job as porter on a railway train, and one of his first duties was to learn the rules, as laid down in the rule book of the railway for the safety of the train and passengers. He prided himself on knowing them perfectly. One night the conductor going through the sleeping car noted a red lantern hanging in the passage way. He called the new porter and asked him what the red lantern was doing there.

"Why chief," said the porter, "I was just carrying out the rules."

'Never heard of any rule calling for a red lantern in a sleeping car," answered the conductor, "Where did you get it from?"

With an air of perfect positiveness the new porter got out his book of rules and pointed out Rule 27—"Caution—Always hang out a red lantern when the rear end of a sleeper is exposed."

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in Congress on Al

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possibly prove the biggest battl
his political career. He is "at lo
heads" with the Republican leade
Congress, particularly in the Hou
Representatives, on practically
matters of domestic and foreign
icy. All observers are convince
one thing and that is that the P
dent must fight or relinquish
leadership of his party.

But will the President fight? Wi
use his veto power to bring to t
the leaders who have consiste
flouted his wishes on matters of
tional policy and who have prove
ready that they do not in tend to m
it possible for the President to c
out his theory of government, nam
through joint responsibility and
monious action by the President
the accredited leaders.

A little more than a year in of
the President today faces the fact
harmonious action has proved im
sible; his natural inclination to pe
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has been taken full advantage of
the element in control of the Ho
They took it for granted that
would go along rather than square
shoulders for an encounter on a gr
scale. Have they deceived themse
and will the President fight to m
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is the question asked on all sides
day.

On almost all the important iss
of domestic and foreign policy
breach has widened. The army i
be reduced to a figure which
administration regards as disrup
of the nation's military policy;
navy is to be reduced even more d
tically, and to a figure which
President and Cabinet advisers
lieve is out of all proportion to
minimum requisites under the f
power naval treaty; not only that
the annual military appropriation
actually designates the disposition

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Whisk a tablespoonful of Lux into a thick lather in half a bowlful of very hot water. Add cold water until lukewarm. Dip the stockings up and down, pressing the Lux suds through and through them. Rinse in three lukewarm waters. Squeeze water out—*do not wring*. Hang to dry. Never dry over a radiator.

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