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The Maple Leaf forever."

Semi-Weekly Telegraph
and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 20, 1912.

DEFENDING THE INDEFEASIBLE

The Liberals of this province ought to be very grateful to the Standard for its leading editorial of yesterday, in which, in attempting to defend the concealment of improper expenditures by the Flemming government, it takes up a line of argument well calculated to show how much room there is for criticism.

The opposition, having an eye upon the tremendous expenditure for roads and bridges in certain counties where politics and partisanship have run mad, demanded details as to many transactions, asking for the names of all who received money, and the nature of the services upon which their claims were based. The government refused to place such details on the records of the House, and the Standard tells why.

"Last year the opposition used the report of the auditor-general as a whip to misrepresent the expenditure of the Public Works Department through their structural superintendents. These officials of the department are employed to make repairs to the small bridges in the different districts to which they are assigned. They also exercise a supervision over all the bridges in their respective localities. The result is that the name of one of the other of these officials is constantly appearing in the accounts. The auditor-general in his wisdom, or perhaps to save time, did not specify what all the expenditures of the structural superintendents were for, but charged up to each bridge the total of payments in a single item irrespective of whether these payments were for labor, supplies purchased, traveling expenses or other services. It has not been a part of the policy of the opposition to deal with any great degree of fairness with the expenditures of the government and it would be putting it mild to say that they made an exception in this instance. They were not even content to accept the report as it was, but misrepresented the facts by every means in their power."

How inhuman of the opposition to use the report of the auditor-general as a whip to misrepresent the Flemming government! The phraseology is singular, but no doubt the Standard meant that the opposition resorted to cruel and unusual methods of attack. So, as the Standard makes clear, it was thought better this year to conceal the facts under such headings as payments to "various persons," lumping together many sums concerning each one of which the people of the province are entitled to specific information. Whether the auditor-general's conduct was due to his "wisdom" or to his desire "to save time," it is not going to help the province much in finding out what the Flemming government did with the money, or just which of its henchmen profited most through subventions for "superintendents," "traveling expenses," and the like.

But it seems that the auditor-general, if we are to believe the Standard, has become a terrible person, who, craftily concealing his intentions from the government, proceeded off his own bat, as it were, to hide much detailed information which the cabinet members were most eager to give to the public. Let us examine the Standard's description of the auditor-general's amazing conduct. It says:

"Without in any way consulting the government, the auditor-general has apparently made a change in his method of reporting on these expenditures. As implied in the public accounts committee last year it was the wish of the government that the full and complete statement of all the items expended by the structural superintendents should be made public. The Chief Commissioner stated that

he had nothing to conceal, that the accounts were all sworn to and that if it could be shown that perjury had been committed the offenders would be dealt with in the proper manner. Instead of giving all the details as suggested by the Chief Commissioner, the auditor-general furnishes even fewer particulars of the money spent by structural superintendents than he gave last year."

Thus, while the chief commissioner stated that he had nothing to conceal, the Standard explains that the auditor-general ignored the eagerness of the chief commissioner for publicity and persisted in hiding the government's light under a bushel. One shudders to think of the condign punishment which will be meted out to the auditor-general by a government most infuriated as the Flemming government must be, indeed, the Standard says it is by its official's autocratic and gratuitous conduct in burying in the cellar that which Mr. Flemming and Mr. Morrissey desired to have megaphoned from the house-tops.

Mr. Copp and his supporters have scored heavily in exposing the government's occupation of the indefensible position which the Standard so ably attempts to defend. It is known everywhere that the refusal of the government to place on record detailed answers to the opposition's questions are due to two facts: one of which is that the exposure by the opposition last year was calculated to open the eyes of the country to the waste and extravagance of the government, while the other is that, with this year's big deficit and the tremendous expenditure on public works in mind, it is easy to understand that an examination of the details of expenditure this year, if they were available, would provide electrifying material such as the government does not desire to face when presently it goes to the country.

The gratitude of Mr. Copp and his followers to the Standard for its amazing admissions of yesterday should not cause them to slow down in their efforts to secure from Mr. Flemming and his ministers a straightforward account of what they have done with the people's money, how much of it went for actual work and material at fair prices, and what proportion of it may fairly be charged up to partisan distribution among friends of the machine in the various counties.

THE WAY OF THE TRIMMER

A knowledge of history should have taught Mr. Borden that the way of the trimmer is hard, but he evidently had to learn it by experience. Experience has been praised as something that teaches us to what to follow and shows us what to avoid. But as a mode of warning it has had no influence on Mr. Borden. To determine the vintage he evidently thinks he has drunk all the wine in the cask.

The charm of this alliance with the Nationalists is that it makes deception absolutely necessary to both parties, and when, in the efflux of time, one villany after another is exposed, the allies naturally fly at each other's throats. The trade name of the government is supposed to be "conservatism," but it is really proving to be "cowardice." They are not just the same things, although many bigoted Tories must have been diligently trying, during the last few months, to convince themselves that they are. But the rank and file of the party are haunted by a real feeling of loss. They have lost the old policies of the Conservatives, one after the other, with the solitary exception of their subservience to the privileged classes. This is the one policy that the common people, who vote Conservative, would most like to see them lose, but it is one which is fastened to them as the old man-of-the-sea was fastened about Sinbad the Sailor. The pure irony of the situation is nowhere more apparent than in this, that Mr. Boursassa is now attacking his allies for unfaithfulness to the very policy on which they secured the support of the Ultra-montanes in Canada, that is, on the question of Separate Schools. Tupper promised this in 1896 and received the same enthusiastic support for his promise as Borden did in 1911. Now Boursassa turns upon him for unfaithfulness to this traditional policy. Truly the way of the trimmer is hard, and a lie has long legs.

It is very doubtful if, as a result of these experiences, Mr. Borden will be cautious and modest, and make fewer promises. On the contrary, the future is likely to be the same as the past, and the thing he once did with loathing, he will do again with joy. It is difficult to turn back from the way of the trimmer, particularly when a man displays in that way only a desire to win at all hazards. The experience has furnished a valuable test to the country of the stuff that is in our public men. The behavior of the cabinet on all the controversial questions of the day leaves no one in doubt as to whether they are statesmen or mere time-servers. Never did the country see a more complete example of the opportunist politician or the quack doctor in politics.

BLAKE AND RECIPROCITY

The fact that has been most dwelt upon by reviewers in discussing the life and career of Edward Blake is that he broke with his party over the question of unrestricted reciprocity, that is, reciprocity in manufactures as well as in natural products. The Toronto Star now records a necessary reminder to the effect that Mr. Blake's famous letter of 1891 "was not an impassioned outburst against reciprocity but a critical analysis of unrestricted reciprocity." "In those days," it says, "practically everybody was, or professed to be, in favor of reciprocity in natural products." This number included Sir Oliver Mowat and many another Liberal whose loyalty no thoughtful man questioned.

But the fact to be kept in mind in these days is that Mr. Blake was in favor of reciprocity in natural products. What he advocated was "a moderate revenue tariff with all the world, coupled with liberal provisions for reciprocal free trade in natural products with the United States." He was, in a word, in favor of just such an arrangement as was proposed

by the Liberal party last year, and, as the Star says:

"His keen, critical, far-seeing mind could see no danger in that; no drift toward commercial union; no drift toward annexation. Now, if we say that in critical analysis and foresight Mr. Blake was superior to Sir Oliver Mowat, who supported unrestricted reciprocity, we may surely assume that in critical analysis and foresight he was superior to any of those who in our day opposed the kind of reciprocity of which he approved. As all events, the use of Mr. Blake's name as an opponent of reciprocity is wholly unwarranted, and should be avoided by anyone who is seeking the truth."

Those who are afraid of the revival of a campaign for unrestricted reciprocity, beginning probably in Alberta and Saskatchewan, must soon realize that the only possible way to avoid such a revival is to give the farmers, East and West, untaxed entry into the United States market for their products. So surely as the Conservative party persists in denying this measure of justice to the agricultural interests, just as surely will there arise, and persist, a demand for the removal of protection from manufactures. On the other hand, the removal of the duty from natural products would prevent any movement for the abolition of the duty on manufactures, and no doubt the country would then be content with a gradual reduction of some of the more excessive schedules.

There is only one big issue in Canadian politics today, and that is the tariff. The essential difference between the parties in Canada today is that the Liberal party stands for a sensible tariff, while the Conservative party proposes by means of the tariff commission to pay its debt to the "interests" for their aid during the campaign of last autumn. Should the Liberal party take full advantage of its policy in this respect its return to power cannot be long deferred. Liberals everywhere should keep in mind the great fact that outside of Ontario a majority of the people of Canada voted for reciprocity last September.

THE WORSHIP OF THE SUN

The arrest of Dr. Ha'nish, "The Master," of the Mazdaznan or Sun Worship cult, in Chicago, shows that city in the new and unusual role of defender of the faith and censor of morals. It was generally thought that in the great and wicked city of the Middle West, beliefs and worship might take all shapes from Mah to Mah, without let or hindrance. There are nearly a hundred different religious organizations in the city of London, and Chicago was becoming a good second in its welcome to known and unknown gods; but the arrest of the priest of the Sun may affect adversely its reputation in that direction.

Although it is reported that Dr. O. Z. Ha'nish was discovered by the police in a coal bin, the statement is probably not true. On the contrary he was very likely arrayed, as his custom is, in gorgeous apparel. On his breast ordinarily gleams the image of the sun. He wears a long priestlike robe of white silk, covered with golden spangles, and over this another robe of crimson, richly embroidered with designs of gold. He confesses to sixty-seven years, but he could easily pass for twenty-seven, or thirty at the most. On his face there is not a single wrinkle. He says that he will die some day—probably in two or three hundred years—but that he will never grow old, and that he will never know sorrow or sickness or tribulation or disappointment. He professes to be a stranger to weariness as well as all the other ills and woes that flesh is heir to.

The secret of his youth and of his immunity from trouble and sorrow he finds in one word—Mazdaznan. He describes it as the religion behind all other religions, and its chief teaching is that the body should be kept immaculately clean, inside and out. His followers eat no meat; they do not eat the flesh of any dead animal, as he emphatically put it. His second great injunction is the importance of breathing correctly. Proper breathing, he says, will destroy the germs of all diseases and eradicate from the system the hereditary results of the blunders of ancestors. If the body is kept right men will think right, he says, but the slightest uncleanness or abuse of the body immediately will react in a corresponding degree on the mind. He does not set unattainable ideals before his followers, but a system of correct living in relation to the animal, vegetable and mineral world about them. According to this teacher, a man may keep the law of the country and yet be worthless. He may break the law, and yet be fine. He may commit a sin against society and yet realize through this sin his true perfection. What is outside of him is a matter of less importance than what is inside.

He has some mad comments to offer about other religions. The teachings of Jesus, for instance, he declares are being constantly misinterpreted. He commands that the disciples should pray unceasingly. That did not mean that they should all day be praying, but they should say the Lord's prayer through without stopping—all in one breath, with a slight pause at the end of each line of the original blank verse. It was a formula to teach the disciples deep breathing, he asserts, and any other formula would do as well. Repeating that prayer morning, noon and night, and not drawing the breath until it is finished, would result in much physical benefit in a short space of time. None of his leading teachings make it clear just why the Chicago authorities should object to him. He is said to be a man of wonderful accomplishments, orator, teacher, printer, physician, agriculturalist, and under his direction one of the most successful poultry farms in the United States has been run. It may be that the most trust objects to his vegetarian teaching.

OUR MOOSE AND OUR MODESTY

New Brunswick is the greatest of moose countries, and because moose are becoming scarce in Maine and big game hunters are being attracted to New Brunswick rather than to the neighboring state of Maine, the Boston Transcript publishes a story calculated to stimulate in

interest in Maine's well-known moose wilderness. The story is to the effect that a Maine farmer complains to the State game commissioners that moose have eaten up \$300 worth of his hoop-poles, and asks for damages.

A reliable New Brunswick guide could tell a much better story than this one from Maine, without the slightest preparation. Moose and deer have become so plentiful in New Brunswick that it has become necessary to allow the long-suffering farmer to protect himself against their ravages by shooting at them when they invade his crops too seriously. Men go into the New Brunswick woods with cameras and take pictures of hundreds of moose every year, and in some districts bulls with a spread of antlers "like a rocking chair" are said to have been trained to pose for the picture men. In other districts, rumor has it, the wily guides provide tame moose trained to dodge bullets at 500 yards, for the entertainment of American sportsmen who used to complain that they never could get a shot at anything in the Maine woods.

There is scarcely a town in the province that does not boast at least once a year of having seen a moose in its streets, and it is well known that the Moncton Golf Club has a ground rule permitting a player to try his shot over again in case his first one should strike a moose in the fair green. At Lingan a well known player once saw two moose within easy musket shot, though it is true his opponent could see but one.

Since Maine is beginning tardily to yarn about its moose, it is time the New Brunswick publicists let out a notch or two in their wild game literature. Our attractions ought no longer to be hidden under the prosaic verbiage of the railway and steamship guide books.

SIR EDWARD GREY ON HOME RULE

Those who read Sir Edward Grey's recent highly important Manchester speech on Home Rule will find an assurance that the Irish measure will soon be passed by the House of Commons, and that it will be passed by means of a majority of the Irish vote. Critics of the government have frequently sought to make it appear that the bill could not be carried in the House of Commons but for the assistance of the Irish Nationalists. He said, in the course of his speech:

"It is said that on the Liberal side we cannot be trusted with Home Rule because the Irish Nationalists vote with us. It is a strange thing if Home Rule is to be passed by the party against which the Irish Nationalists vote. It is a measure which, surely, if it is passed at all, should be passed for the sake of the great parties of the United Kingdom. They say on the other side that we are dependent on the Irish vote. We are not dependent on the Irish vote in the sense which they mean. If all the members from Ireland left the House of Commons tomorrow and did not reappear during this session we should be able to pass Home Rule. There is a British majority in favor of it. I do not say that it would be an advantage that they should do so, because I think the criticism and the opinion of a majority of members from Ireland ought to be an essential part of the passing of a Home Rule bill. But I do say that it is essential to it, because there is a British majority as well as an Irish majority for Home Rule. On the Conservative side they have curious ideas of arithmetic. I think they cannot deny that the Liberal and Labor parties together—British Liberal and Labor parties together—are a majority over themselves. In all the calculations they make they deduct the Irish Nationalists from the Home Rule majority in the House of Commons; they never deduct the Irish Ulster members from their own side; and if you wish to know accurately how the majority are on the Home Rule question, what purely British majority there is for Home Rule—you must deduct the Irish Ulster members from the Conservative side. As a matter of fact, of course, it is really the Conservative and Labor parties together who are the majority on the Irish vote more than ourselves. We are not dependent on the Irish vote for staying in. If the Irish vote were not there we should hold our own, and more than do so, but the Conservatives are dependent on the Irish vote for any chance of turning us out."

Deducting the Irish vote from both sides, there remains a clear Liberal-Labor majority of about forty members for Home Rule. In Gladstone's day the support of eighty Nationalists was necessary to give him a majority of forty-three for Home Rule in the Commons. Now, as then, the Lords will reject the bill; but now they cannot kill it but only postpone it for two years. If the Asquith government lives until 1914 Ireland will have Home Rule.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

With the best intention on the part of law makers, it is becoming a difficult matter to secure that equality, particularly where different races are involved. A book published recently entitled "Race Distinctions in American Law," gives many instances of the failure to eliminate racial distinctions from legislation. In such cases as labor-contracts, apprenticeships, vagrancy and pauperism, and a considerable list of occupations skilled and unskilled, the negro finds himself legally at a disadvantage in comparison with the white man. Beyond the law is the still more potent force of custom and public opinion, which, indeed, are responsible for the legislation. Similar distinctions have become embedded in the laws of the country also in regard to most non-European races.

To call a white person a negro is actionable in some of the Southern states. In Syracuse (O.), and in three counties in North Carolina, a negro is not allowed to remain overnight. There is everywhere in the South a strong tendency to eliminate him as a juror. Law has no other sanction than that it is the expression of the will of a majority of the people. That is the difficulty, because this spirit which separates races will soon separate classes in the same race, and instead of wise laws will rear and plant in their stead a "higher law" which each one for himself may adopt and administer. Money in the United States has become able to bend laws and courts to its purpose. That way anarchies lie.

Legislators secure the gratitude of humanity, not by enacting affirmative laws but by securing the repeal of obnoxious

and vicious enactments. Burke said in one of those immortal orations which emptied the House of Commons but which will always be read with admiration, that when the laws of Great Britain were not strong enough to protect the humblest Hindoo upon the shores of the Ganges, the nobleman was not safe in his castle upon the banks of the Thames.

THE DECLINE OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

The business of governments for many years to come will be with methods of ameliorating social conditions. No instructed person questions the fact of the need of improvement. The government which is today, as it is at Ottawa, giving anxious thought for methods of imposing new burdens on the people and for extending new advantages to privileges, is going like a fool to the correction of the stocks. There are many special interests that cry out against government regulation of business, which thoroughly believe in governmental help when it comes to asking for a valuable franchise or a special tariff rate. They obstinately refuse to give value for value to the public, but are quite willing to pay a reasonable consideration to the authorized representatives in Parliament instead of to the people.

Mr. Chamberlain, when he had no illusions on this subject, was very bold and positive in his opinion. He said: "I tell you that any proposal to tax corn is a proposal to put rents in the pockets of the landlords, and that any proposal to tax manufacturers is a proposal to put profits in the pockets of particularly favored manufacturers. Ah, well! I do not think that you will be led away by these absurdities."

But the people sometimes become ensnared by the common protection fallacies, and under the shouting of demagogues are led in the way of national disaster. When economic arguments cannot be answered, some distracting cry of "Wolff!" will always be raised by those who hope to benefit by superstition and ignorance. In spite of the success of those who seek first and their selfish interests, there is a feeling even among them that something is wrong. They are dimly sensing the fact that while they were smiting the people on one cheek, they were as diligently smiting themselves on the other. Their weapon has been a blunt knife with a sharp handle, and while employing it to stab they have wounded themselves some severely. The excesses of privilege are rapidly making all privilege impossible. There is, apparently, in the structure of the world, a wisdom that transmutates crime into progress. If it were not so the end would have come with an explosion long ago. Our social organization shows wonderful vitality in that it has survived the quick economic nostrums that are so often administered to it for its health.

The quick remedy is administered and the quick exacts enormous fees. High protection is ever a quick remedy. It is the chief cause for the present industrial condition throughout the rural sections of Canada. The only remedy for rural depression is to remove the duty on natural products. To tax food is to enrich the arch-monopolist. The working farmer thinks himself fortunate if he can make both ends meet, and the farms are deserted because other pursuits offer more profit. A tax on food is likewise a tax on labor, and the cost of living continually mounts upward, because of the unnatural and artificial conditions produced by the men who seek to perpetuate the mischief of special privilege.

In the meantime, while man can be instructed he cannot be bludgeoned in spite of himself. No social and economic changes can go forward independent of individual action. If the farmers and toilers of Canada are going to prevent the duplicating of conditions that are threatening the very existence of representative governments in other lands, they have only to get their wits and their intelligence to work, they have only to unite against the excesses of the special interests. There are only a few methods of acquisition, as industry, frugality, economy on the one hand, and robbery, theft, fraud and beggary on the other. The chief difficulty in the past has been due to the fact that the cost of progress was borne by a part of society. In the ballot there is a remedy for this. The farmers and the consumers are discovering that they hold the reins. Hitherto they have been content to pull the load.

NOTE AND COMMENT

It is time to begin the exemption of improvements from taxation. Tax vacant land, and it will become productive.

Uncertainty as to the location of the dry dock continues. The latest report places it near the head of Courtney Bay.

St. John never saw a spring season more promising than this one. By June we shall begin to realize what a real forward movement is like.

The commission bill is to be passed this week by the Legislature. A citizens' ticket will probably be announced so soon as the commission legislation is completed at Fredericton.

Some of the beauties of the administration as carried on by the Flemming regime are described in our Fredericton correspondence. "Jobs for relatives" seems to be the slogan of the Flemming party. It is an exalted conception of public service that New Brunswick sees practised by the group of provincial statesmen who promised liberty and usefulness government.

Hon. George Eulas Foster in a Toronto speech told his audience that Canada does not want millionaires. That is as it may be. But the millionaires of Canada want the Fosters and the Borden and the other statesmen who know how to reward their friends at the expense of the public. Mr. Foster, by the way, has just discovered that the cost of living is too high.

Nova Scotia is amending its public utilities legislation. One of the new features

is that complainants who are not millionaires will not be prevented by their poverty from asking the intervention of the commission, and getting it. New Brunswick was late in establishing a public utilities commission. It is now in order to bring the legislation up to date and make the commission useful.

Selling provincial assets and treating the proceeds as revenue is a method of financing roundly condemned in the budget debate. It seems to strengthen the government in a negligent policy toward timber restoration.—Toronto Globe.

Mr. Flemming has made that method of financing well known in New Brunswick. Instead of spending interest alone he yearns upon his principal by permitting the cutting of timber below the proper price. It is a penny-wise-pound-foolish policy which is rapidly diminishing New Brunswick's chief asset.

Evidently certain interests are preparing to attack the assessment bill at Fredericton. It is to be hoped St. John may be able this time to make a fair start toward taxation reform. It is folly to suppose the exemption of improvements will result in injustice. Fear of something like equality in raising civic revenue has hitherto led the reactionaries to oppose all desirable changes in the assessment law. Are they to have their way this year too? Home rule in taxation is surely a reasonable request.

When critics of the assessment bill tell of the injustices it is going to inflict they deliberately ignore the provision for a commission to deal with special cases—which would be by no means so numerous as they affect to believe. The only way to reform the assessment system is to reform it. The making of an omnibus with out breaking some eggs is not yet possible. As a rule objections to taxation reform come from those who fear they will lose undue advantages if the question is opened up. It is time to be moving. An unjust and reactionary system of taxation is too expensive a handicap for a progressive city to tolerate.

The latest government bulletin on the cost of living gives but cold comfort to the consumer. Here it is:

"The Department of Labor's wholesale prices record up to date shows a still higher level for February than for January, notwithstanding that the latter month was reported as having seen the highest prices since 1882-4, and possibly since 1873. The index number rose during February from 1314 to 1343, these being percentages of the average level of prices during the last decade of the last century. The upward movement was largely the result of advances in grains, animals and meats, dairy products and potatoes. Retail prices were also upward, especially in the food products derived from the lines above mentioned."

What is causing much of the dissatisfaction with the government at this instant? Why has the love of some of its most loyal supporters grown cold? Why, simply because Premier Borden feels that, powerful as may be these interests, the people as a whole have the power to destroy, and a very considerable and ever-growing percentage of them are very apt to destroy if too much be taken from Peter to swell Paul's bank account.—Toronto Saturday Night.

This was written before the budget speech was delivered. The payment of the "interests" by means of the tariff has been put off for a year. By next year, too, the feeling in favor of tariff reduction will be even stronger than at present. There is a mighty interesting time ahead.

Hon. Mr. White's first budget, lacking tariff changes, is of little interest except as recording the record surplus left by his predecessor. The "interests" are to wait another year for their reward. They will be even hungrier and more insistent next year than now. And to pay them for their aid in the elections is going to be about as perilous as to refuse payment. By next year the farmers, east and west, will have come fully to realize the extent of the injustice done them in denying them free entry to their nearest market. The reciprocity legislation has not been repealed at Washington, and next year the Democrats will be in control—a tariff party owing its success mainly to popular protest against the high cost of living. Those active and powerful Canadians who are pressing for an increase in our already excessive tariff are making a mistake in letting Mr. Borden defer his tariff legislation. The low tariff pressure from the Canadian West will be greater next year than now, and in the East only Ontario and Prince Edward Island voted against tariff relief. Next year Mr. Borden will scarcely dare to raise the tariff on any line of manufactured goods, even if he is rash enough to go on telling the farmer to be patriotic and pay up.

A pinch of salt will make the white of an egg beat quicker.

ABE MARTIN

If women ever get 't votin' I wouldn't give much for th' candidate with ugly hair. Some feller's idea of a good business man is not payin' anything till he has to.

Head office of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, London, E., March 4, 1912.

Wholesale Agents

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[The opinions of correspondents are not necessarily those of The Telegraph. This newspaper does not undertake to publish all or any of the letters received. Unsigned communications will not be noticed. While in case it is not used, the name and address of the writer should be sent with every letter as evidence of good faith.—Ed. Telegraph.]

CURIOSITY

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Sir,—What's in the wind? On the day following the opening of the Legislature the Standard contained a moving account of the manner of the election in the case of which its reporter told the chairman's prayer. Then he wrote as follows:

"The prayer ended, Hon. George J. Clarke took his seat on the bench, and shortly after the sergeant-at-arms advanced and announced, after a dignified bow in the direction of the speaker: Mr. Speaker, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has arrived."

"With equal dignity the speaker replied: 'Let His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be seated.' He immediately left the chair. It was precisely what the speaker was expected to say, precisely what many other speakers before him have said, in fact there was not the remotest chance of his saying anything else and yet at his words there was a sort of nervousness in the house, and intangible fear that something extraordinary might happen with an equally vague hope that it would not."

Sir, ever since those ominous words were penned, Standard readers have been waiting uncomfortably for something to happen. What is coming? Is John Wilson going to leave the government in the premier going to tell the hon. Mr. Dickson going to insist upon the production and publication of a certain affidavit? Is Fred Spence going to leave the government in the Liberal—the government of which he has been so long a conspicuous pillar? Is ex-Governor Tweedie going to tell what he knows of the government's doings, and of some of its proposals which he was compelled to veto in the public interest? Is the government going to publish a list of the relatives of members of the legislature, pointing out the difficulty in which we found ourselves owing to the drop of \$38,000 in our income for the previous year, and to the continued decrease during the early months of this year? We were faced for the first time with the possible necessity for abandoning the rule which Dr. Barnardo laid down, and which we, as his successors, had faithfully maintained since his death, that no destitute child shall ever be refused admission—unless we asked finding ourselves unable to perform our obligations to the 9,400 children already in our care, or unless the public decided for us that the rule was worth keeping, and by their help should be kept.

Thanks Sir, to the kindness of the press, and to the additional help which came to us during the latter half of the year, the rule has been kept, and so far as we know, no destitute child has yet been refused admission. But we found ourselves at the end of last year with only half of our deficiency made up. This is the excuse of myself and my council for troubling you again.

In asking for more money we are not met by a difficulty which the managers of every large institution have now to face. More and more the public are beginning to ask themselves whether individual generosity should tax itself with voluntary burdens, in addition to the already imposed by law, for the benefit of the less fortunate or less capable members of the community. We have therefore to show not only that our work is worthy of support, but that it is already being carried on by private and individual effort than by the state.

In the case of children we have no doubt; we believe the help which is given freely, which comes direct from human sympathy, blesses both those that give and those that take; and our appeal for Dr. Barnardo's Homes applies also to all those great, widely-managed institutions which are our rivals and our very good comrades in the children's service.

There is no workhouse taint about our children. Before our boys become men we ask whether there is any heavier sense of dependence among them than towards the parents who have done their duty by them in the matter of maintenance and education; they are being given their chance, and in almost every case our children show that they deserve it.

Our children do not become "charity children" because they have been at "Barnardo's." It is a bond of union among Barnardo boys, as to have been at Eton among Old Etonians; and we are sending out into the country and the colonies as many Barnardo boys in a year as Eton produces Old Etonians in five.

Our children are not ashamed of their bringing up—are proud of it in fact, and will do credit to it, as we want them to grow up, not pauperized, or humiliated by the remembrance of a somewhat grudging maintenance at the expense of unwilling ratepayers but honest, independent men and women, with a genuine affectionate regard for the place that made them so.

What might they have been? How many of these children would have had a chance of becoming anything but a curse to their country in the surroundings from which they were rescued? Yet almost every one will grow into a useful citizen, if we may judge by the past.

I spoke, Sir, of our "excesses" for troubling you. Really it is not an excuse that we need, but a binding obligation that rests upon us to press the claim of our country's children, upon the voluntary help and sympathy of every one who loves the little ones, and who is as anxious as we are to sweep child misery, child misuse, and child destitution from the face of our land.

And for this cause we ask for donations and subscriptions to enable us still to keep our rule intact, that in the last resort every destitute child may always have a home to come to, which can never be too full to take it, into which it can always claim to be admitted by nothing but the sovereign right of its own destination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
SOMERSET, President.

Head office of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, London, E., March 4, 1912.

Wholesale Agents