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This paper has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Semi-Weekly Telegraph. ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 31, 1899.

WESTERN MEMBERS AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES. Several of the western members took the opportunity of the vacation of the house to pay a visit to the maritime provinces, going over the short line to St. John, and from thence by the Intercolonial to Halifax and returning by way of the North Shore. Their visit to St. John was limited to the ten minutes that the train remains in the station, so that they saw but a small portion of the city as could be observed from the platform. Their stay in Halifax was longer, but in no part of their trip did they give sufficient time to an examination of the country to form any fair opinion in regard to it.

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which might be expected to contribute in making it a success. We have no doubt that such a trip could be easily organized and it is quite possible that we might be able to bring a third at least of the western members down this way for they all seem to be anxious to be better acquainted with us, although their opportunities in that direction have been too few.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL. The present would seem to be a good time to calmly look over the criticisms which have been directed by the Conservatives against the redistribution bill recently introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is useless to pay any attention to the objections raised by Sir Charles Tupper. He is no longer capable of arguing any question at issue before the parties. As leader of the opposition he deems it to be his duty to raise in frantic terms over anything brought forward by the government. Everything is "most monstrous" in his eyes. But some of the Conservative newspapers, with a stronger sense of policy, have expressed what is probably the better judgment of their party upon this question. The "Mail and Empire" has certainly not done so. It is something like Sir Charles' incapacity of presenting any matter fairly.

What the better class of Conservative papers have pointed out is that the measure now before the house contains serious inequalities. That is to say, it does not establish a uniform standard of representation. For example, if the bill carries as it is now framed, Toronto will have one member for each 50,000 of its population; while Brant will have a member for each 17,000. This is quite true. Neither in this country nor in any other has it been found expedient to give to the larger cities the same representation that is given to the rural constituency. There are several reasons why this rule has been followed, chief among which is the fact that the representatives of rural constituencies frequently live in the cities. For example, eight members of parliament now reside in Toronto, including a cabinet minister. Each one of the world is deeply concerned in preventing any injustice being done to the city in which he has his home, and in that way the larger representation in parliament than is shown by the number of seats. On the other hand Brant will not have a relatively larger representation than several other rural constituencies.

The underlying principle of the bill has reference to municipal boundaries. It is thought to be of the first importance that the natural lines in this regard, by which people are kept together in association and interest, should be maintained. This is both a safe and a reasonable principle, and unless it should lead to exceedingly grave inequities of representation, it ought to be followed. It was this principle which the Conservatives violated in such a shocking manner in their two gerrymanders, carrying up the constituencies in order disregard of the ordinary county boundaries, and caring only that they should get a distinct party advantage by so doing. The bill now introduced proposes merely to undo the mischief committed in 1883 and 1892 without regard to considerations of party advantage. The Liberals were firmly and definitely committed to the policy of doing this when they came into power and they propose to keep their word. It could not be honestly said by the most rabid opponent of the measure that it is aimed to secure an advantage to the Liberals at the expense of the Conservatives. The fact that the division of constituencies is to be made by a commission of judges shows how fairly the Liberals have proposed to set in the whole matter, and how studiously they have sought to exclude the element of party. It really looks as if the judicial fairness of the measure is one of the things which exasperates the Conservatives; it leaves them so little upon which to hang their objections.

To hear Sir Charles Tupper and other Tories talk in violent terms against the present redistribution bill is like listening to a sermon by Satan on the folly of such hypocrisy. Satan has never actually exposed himself to criticism for such hypocrisy. These are the people who sat down in the most old-blooded fashion to cut the throat of every Liberal in Ontario, and that at a time when the Conservatives had a large numerical advantage. They proceeded upon no principle whatever, except the principle of "hiving the Grits." None claiming respectability ever defended their measures. It was simply forced through parliament by the majority, and the dear old senators, who are now so deeply concerned over the righteousness of everything, allowed the measure to slide through without the suggestion of opposition. Three some senators are now the hope of the opposition. Conservatives in the commons on the very night that Sir Wilfrid introduced his bill suggested about the corridors in most impudent fashion, declaring that the government might get their bill through the lower house, but the senate would kill it. This is an alarming state of affairs to contemplate, and in the face of so fair and desirable a measure, perhaps some of the Conservative senators may pause before they lend themselves to an action that would be a great shock to the public mind. If it

can be shown that the present bill will work an injustice to any constituency, the government will no doubt be disposed to modify it so as to prevent harm being done in that regard; but whether the Conservatives in the commons set up a blockade, or the Conservatives in the Senate oppose it, commit themselves to hostile action, the Liberals are bound to press their bill forward to an issue.

THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM. A question in regard to the Plains of Abraham was brought up the other day in the Royal Society, the discussion arising out of the statement that at there was danger of the celebrated battle ground being cut up into town lots, which some of the members of the society looked upon as a shocking act of desecration. One gentleman who was present, however, stated that some doubt had been cast upon the Plains of Abraham being the real battle ground upon which Wolfe fought and fell. This certainly is a new idea for, we thought that if anything in Canadian history was well established it was the identity of this famous battle ground. At all events for a great many years there has been a monument on the very middle of the ground, and it contains the legend carved on stone "Here Did Wolfe Victorious." The point therefore in regard to the Plains of Abraham not being the battle ground of Wolfe seems not to be well taken, but no doubt there is plenty of room for argument in respect to the manner in which the Plains of Abraham ought to be preserved. Some of the members of the Royal Society seem to be of the opinion that they ought to be purchased by the government and reserved as a park, or for some similar purpose, and that in no case ought they to be permitted to be used as sites for buildings. We fear that this idea, however, is impracticable, for if the city of Quebec is ever to increase to any large extent it will necessarily encroach upon the Plains of Abraham, because that is the ground which lies immediately before the present city. We do not pretend to have much sympathy with that form of veneration for antiquity which seeks to preserve an old ruin or a portion of the soil on the ground that it has been the scene of historical association. In this city the most famous piece of territory yet possessed by a historical point of view, was the site of Fort L'Anson, has long been covered with houses, and we do not believe that the veneration of our people for this spot has been in the slightest degree lessened by that fact. In the same manner the putting of the Plains of Abraham to a useful purpose would not in the slightest degree diminish the glory of Wolfe's famous victory or the interest which attaches to that battle field. Indeed, it seems to be almost too late now to endeavor to protect the Plains of Abraham from desecration, because for many years the very air of Quebec has stood upon them or jell near them. The best way to honor Wolfe's memory in our opinion, is for the people of Quebec to devote their energies to the improvement of the commerce of their city, so that it may become as famous among the cities of modern Canada as it was during the ancient regime.

CANADIAN WATER POWER. Mr. T. C. Keefer struck a very interesting topic at the meeting of the Royal Society when he discussed Canadian water power and its applicability to the use of man. Of all countries in the world Canada is perhaps most abundantly supplied with water, not only in the form of great lakes but her mighty rivers and numerous tributaries as well as innumerable brooks and streams all over the land. The eastern portion of Canada, including the maritime provinces, is particularly favored in this respect, and therefore Mr. Keefer's paper was very suggestive in regard to the benefit of which the country must eventually derive from the use of this power. Formerly it was only possible to apply their power of rivers upon her banks, where a dam would be erected, but the invention of electricity has changed all this. And now water power can be transmitted for miles, and indeed for distances which make it possible to use it over wide areas of country. Such cities as Minneapolis have been built up by their excellent water power, such as the falls of St. Anthony, which have been the cause of the great industrial activity of that place, but now by the application of electricity cities much farther from the seat of power can derive equal advantage from its use. Speaking particularly of the province of New Brunswick it can be safely affirmed that there is no part of Canada which is more highly favored in respect to water power than this. When Major Robinson, who first surveyed the Intercolonial railway half a century ago, declared in his report that New Brunswick was the most magnificently wooded and watered in the world, and this truth which made but little impression at the time, must now have a very deep significance. It is almost impossible to traverse a mile of country in New Brunswick without coming across a running stream, and every one of these streams must become a seat of power in the future. The Grand Falls of the River St. John is an example of the kind of potentiality that is going to waste in this province, and we are glad to know that this great stream is now likely to be harnessed and applied to the uses of man; but this is but one of the great powers of our province, for all over it we have streams and waterfalls which might be similarly applied. We have no doubt that the time will come when a very large part of the agricultural work of the province will be performed by electricity generated by means of running streams. This may seem a fanciful idea, but it is essentially a practical one, for the power at our doors that is being wasted will be far more economical and far more efficient than human labor. Of course it goes without saying that manufacturing industries must be greatly extended by means of this power. It is expected, but the triumph of man over nature will have been reached when these natural forces will be given a wider application and put to uses of which our fathers never dreamed. In Great Britain it has been found that agricultural operations can be conducted by means of steam at a less cost than by the hands of man, cheap as labor is in that country, when in comparison with electricity generated by water powers is a costly force, and therefore it is certain that with water powers we can do far better than the British farmer has done with steam. Should the installation of electricity become so perfect that the current can be carried for 200 miles without serious impairment, the Grand Falls would supply sufficient power for the whole St. John River Valley from them to the sea.

CANADIAN LITERATURE. The meeting of the Royal Society at Ottawa has called together considerable number of the literary men of Canada who are its members or are connected with it as delegates from other societies, and the week has been quite a literary one in the federal capital. This paper never favored the establishment of the Royal Society because we perceive that such an institution could hardly be made entirely representative of the best literary and scientific gifts of the country. But now that it is established it ought to receive the favorable consideration of those who are interested in such subjects. We are glad to observe that in the annual report a reference was made to the practice which has become too common of individuals canvassing the members of the society for appointments as members. This is a very grave evil and one which demands a remedy. We hope that the members of the Royal Society will make up their minds that any man who canvasses them for a vote as a member is unfit for the honor of election. It is very regrettable that many who little prize in their nature that they will condescend to beg for honors. The literary man ought to be above such small devices. Perhaps there are members now in the Royal Society who have attained their membership by such means and if there are, they must have felt the censure of their peers very keenly. If the suggestion contained in the report is carried out the Royal Society will have entered upon a new career of usefulness and will have become entitled to public respect. With regard to Canadian literature in general it must be admitted that the people of this dominion are doing a large amount of valuable literary work and that the volume of Canadian literature is growing year by year. If we have not produced a man of commanding genius in the literary field, we can claim the credit of having given the world some very excellent writers in various branches of literature, and what is more satisfactory, is the fact that Canadian literature is beginning to be appreciated by the Canadian people. One disadvantage which writers in Canada must always labor under is the fact that, if their books are published here, they will have but a small circle of readers. For this reason Canadian authors who feel themselves strong enough to do so, publish their works abroad. And almost less their identity of Canadian writers. This, however, is in the nature of things, for with an English speaking population of upwards of 100,000,000 in Great Britain, the United States and Canada it is natural that first-class writers should take their wares to the largest markets. We have no fears for the future of Canadian literature, it will grow with the growth of the country and with the increase of the taste for literature among our people. It will be greatly assisted by the strong feeling of patriotism which has grown up in this dominion, and which seems to have taken a new lease of life within the past two or three years. In the dominion of Canada, its history, its magnificent resources, its splendid future, its hardy, brave and loyal people, the writers of Canada have a field worthy of their best efforts either in the form of history, poetry or fiction, and we expect to see this field fully cultivated during the next ten or fifteen years. We believe that a new and better era is dawning on Canadian literature, and we look with confidence to its future.

THREATEN RETALIATION. A great deal has already been done by many citizens of St. John with a view to relieving to some extent the suffering and destitution caused by the fearful conflagration of Thursday last. But no matter how much may be done by charitable and active citizens many deserving cases must necessarily be passed over on account of the time required to organize and perfect arrangements for systematic assistance. With this difficulty in view and remembering what a large sum of money remains in the hands of The Relief and Aid Society we think the time has arrived when prompt action should be taken to influence the application of a part of their fund towards the relief of cases of distress not being otherwise assisted. If legislation be required to permit of such application of a part of the money no doubt such legislation will be readily granted when applied for, and probably some assurance could now be received placing this matter on a safe basis. When fellow citizens are suffering from hunger and cold as a result of a disastrous fire we think it is a suitable time to place at their disposal at least a part of a fund which was originally formed for exactly such a purpose.

Among the deaths of literary men during the year to which the attention of the members of the Royal Society was called at their 11th meeting was that of Dr. Kingsford, the author of voluminous history of Canada. The Canadian expressed that Dr. Kingsford's history, although not easy reading, was a valuable contribution to the historical literature of the country, and this opinion is undoubtedly correct. Kingsford's history of Canada lacks the perspective which is necessary to the production of a historical work of art, and it lacks also the fire and inspiration which can only be breathed into a work by an imagination that is akin to genius. But such histories as Kingsford's have a great value as depositories of facts, and the industry of the author in collecting them cannot be too highly commended.

A great deal of criticism has appeared in the press respecting the situation of Mr. Costigan in the province of New Brunswick local politics have never run on the same lines as dominion politics, the provincial government party, which had been built up largely by Mr. Blair, and had become known as the "Blair party." Mr. Costigan's provincial allegiance to Sir Charles Tupper had been patched up during the short administration of Sir Charles Tupper.

Indian Mission. George Buskin, of the Algoma and Northwest coast portage mission, is making his third annual visit to St. John in the interest of the 16th year's work of the mission. His operations have largely been among the Indians in those newly settled districts, supplying them with Bibles and biblical literature, of which 17,000 copies, in 18 languages, have been supplied, also free distribution of religious tracts and magazines, and conducting school and sanitary services. Thirty-one various editions of scriptural books have been printed by the mission in five languages, necessary for Christian instruction, and others are in course of publication. His operations are well known, and are numerously endorsed as a good and necessary work, the results of which must be for much profit. Last year \$23.65 was contributed in St. John for his aid, which the missionary gratefully acknowledged and again respectfully presents the cause in the Lord's name for renewed support to meet his costs and indebtedness.

"Example is Better Than Precept." It is not what we say, but what Hood's Sarsaparilla does, that tells the story. Thousands of testimonials are examples of what Hood's has done for others, and what it will do for you.

Dyspepsia. "I was weak and had fainting spells. Dyspepsia and indigestion in severe form troubled me. Five bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla made me well and strong." Mrs. WILLIAM VAN ALKEDORP, Watbury, Ont.

A Good Medicine. "We have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family as a purifying medicine and found both medicines very good. For impure blood we know Hood's Sarsaparilla is a good medicine." R. S. FULTON, publisher, Ives, Atwood, Ont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla. Never Disappoints. Hood's Pills cure liver ills; the non-digestible and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

UNITED STATES NOT PLEASED WITH THE STAND CANADA HAS TAKEN. Treasury Department May Raise the Duties on Canadian Products—Comments of the English Press on the Joint Commission Deal.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—There is little doubt that our government is inclined to retaliatory consideration against Canada by the discouraging results of the negotiations in London, looking to the clearing of the field for the re-assembling of the joint Canadian commission. It is gathered that the British foreign office, which had seemed desirous to meet Mr. Costigan's advances in the spirit of compromise that promised well, has again been influenced by Canada's refusal to agree to anything less than a concession of all of her demands which has stopped all progress.

The department of state has referred to the treasury department the arrangement of a plan to protect the interests of the United States and a decision from Secretary Gage is expected very soon. The treasury department has now two courses open, both being retaliatory, namely, to increase the duties on lumber and forest products imported into the United States from Canada, there is possibly another course. A section of the Dingley act authorizes the United States government in cases where countries impose an export duty to add the equivalent of such export duty to the import on such goods coming to the United States. The Canadian government is not imposing in so many words an export duty on logs, but it has prohibited their exportation. The question before Secretary Gage is whether this prohibition may not be regarded as in principle the same thing as an export tax. If the view is sound the treasury department has already at hand the measure of retaliation it seeks in the shape of an order prohibiting the importation of Canadian logs into the United States, which would bear very heavily upon other provinces in Canada outside of Ontario.

LONDON, May 26.—The foreign office officials confirm the statements made by the New York correspondent of the London Times to the effect that the negotiations with the Canadian government on the subject of Alaska have reached an almost hopeless stage owing to the insistence of the Canadians that they receive a slice of Alaska which apparently produces any agreement between the American and Canadian high commissioners. The evening newspapers here reproduce the New York despatch, with comment generally regretting the situation but objecting to the conclusions that Canada is blameable.

The Globe says: "The Canadians would be far less patriotic than they are if they realized that they consider to be an unjust and undeliberate demand for the sake of the establishment of more friendly relations with their neighbors." Continuing, the Globe remarks that the Times, "By publishing its correspondence unjudicially summing up, has adopted the easiest way to irritate public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic."

The Westminster Globe says: "We certainly hope a better pace can be put on things, so far as we are concerned, but the deadlock seems very serious." The St. James Gazette thinks American selfishness is playing an important part in the situation, and says: "The Republicans are disposed to a friendly arrangement with England, but it must be on terms so favorable to America that the Democrats will have no excuse to say they yielded their interests to Great Britain."

A Window of Maitland Armstrong. Just what the connection may be between the visit of the Queen of Sheba to Solomon and a manseum to which a crematory is attached, it is difficult to define. But the subject has been admirably treated by Mr. Maitland Armstrong in a stained-glass window which he has arranged and executed for Mr. William S. East of Troy. It will continue on view at No. 63 Washington Square until June 1.

The opening is about eight feet wide and eleven high, with an arched top. The King is shown in profile upon a golden throne, which is decorated with high and low relief work, and raised upon three steps. A mantle of deep purple falls in a waving line from his shoulders to the floor. Upon the left stands a spearman clad in a cuirass formed of green scales, and the middle distance at the King's side is occupied by an attendant bearing a large fan. The latter figure seems somewhat out of scale with the soldier's, the comparative disparity in size not being quite accounted for. The Queen sits before the throne with her hands folded over her breast and an expression of alluring modesty on her beautiful face. All the flesh parts of the picture, by the way, are the work of Miss Helen M. Armstrong are admirable. A robe of lustrous white falls from the Queen's neck to her feet, confined at the hips by a rich sort of green embroidery. Her rose-colored mantle is held up by a little boy, and stands behind her holding a globe. The scene is presented in a kind of loggia, formed by two pillars supporting a beam, which, as well as the capitals, is decorated with lotus forms, excellent in design, and in the dull, rich tones of polychrome. An effective bunch of dark green palm-logs shows behind the architecture, and a crimson banner floats in elegant curves across a sky the color of which passes from clear blue to a rosy white on the horizon. These indications of the color scheme may serve to show that a brilliant effect has been obtained. It has been disposed, too, in such broad and simple masses that variety has not been obtained at the expense of repose nor dignity sacrificed to brilliancy. The composition is equally dignified, simple, and very decorative.

Several of the western members took the opportunity of the vacation of the house to pay a visit to the maritime provinces, going over the short line to St. John, and from thence by the Intercolonial to Halifax and returning by way of the North Shore. Their visit to St. John was limited to the ten minutes that the train remains in the station, so that they saw but a small portion of the city as could be observed from the platform. Their stay in Halifax was longer, but in no part of their trip did they give sufficient time to an examination of the country to form any fair opinion in regard to it.

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