

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH  
THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH  
THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.

These newspapers advocate:  
British connection  
Honesty in public life  
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion  
No graft!  
No deals!  
"The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose and the Maple Leaf forever."

THE HAZEN BANQUET

Mr. Hazen and the party he leads must both be congratulated heartily upon the success of Wednesday's function, because of the large and very representative attendance, because of the fighting spirit in evidence, and because so much of solid worth to the cause of good government in New Brunswick marked the speeches of the leader and his lieutenants. The tribute to Mr. Hazen both as a man and a leader is of unusual depth and sincerity. In recognizing the honor done him he was able to point, not only to long and earnest work for the party, but also to several noteworthy successes in compelling the government to abandon measures and policies opposed to the public welfare. And he was able to dwell upon the now very evident fact that the party has grown very rapidly in public favor, that it is supported today by a most formidable public opinion, and that the chance for victory when the elections come is undeniably bright.

Mr. Hazen spoke of well informed opposition men who hope to carry at least thirty seats out of the forty-six when the government serves up its course to the point of appealing to the country. There are many who will regard this as a somewhat modest estimate in view of the popular attitude toward the wreck of a once powerful administration which Dr. Pugsley turned over to his ambitious and unsuspecting friend Mr. Robinson.

The men who assembled last evening came from every part of the province. They are leaders in the sections they represent, and they could fully appreciate Mr. Hazen's reference to the improvement in the party outlook so noticeable today as compared with 1903. In that year the leader experienced great difficulty everywhere in securing candidates. But last evening the men about him represented a province in every constituency of which there was a fighting organization and in almost every county of which there is in the field a ticket with excellent chances of success. The opposition everywhere embraces both Liberals and Conservatives, a point which Mr. Hazen strongly illustrated Wednesday by referring to the chairman, Dr. Thomas Walker, when he said: "At a recent convention held in York county, which did great credit to Mr. Pugsley's skill as a diplomat and tactician, he informed the electors assembled there that they must vote to sustain the local government, because Mr. Hazen was a Conservative. There was a time not very long distant when Conservatives were not so distasteful to Mr. Pugsley. Your presence in the chair tonight, Sir, and the presence about this festive board of other gentlemen who, like yourself, were fighting the Liberal battle when Dr. Pugsley was doing his utmost to keep the Conservatives in power and prevent Sir Wilfrid Laurier from becoming premier of Canada, shows that all the Liberals in New Brunswick do not take the same view of the situation as is taken by the minister of public works, whose connection with the New Brunswick government was of an extremely profitable character to himself."

Indeed the speeches of Mr. Hazen and Mr. Fleming made it clear to all reasonable men that the fight in New Brunswick should not be one between Conservatives and Liberals merely, but one between the friends of honest, capable and economic administration and the adherents of the present discredited local government. Dr. Pugsley will aid Premier Robinson to the best of his peculiar ability, but he will not be able to deceive the electors as to the real issue.

Mr. Hazen, in reviewing the work done for the people by the party he leads, referred to the special ballot which the government was compelled to concede, to the one-man-one-vote principle introduced through opposition efforts, to the successful battle against two-price bridges, and to the public-spirited attitude of himself and his followers in reference to the notorious highway legislation and the all-devouring Central railway. Summing up the

policies for which the opposition stands, Mr. Hazen put forward the following:

1. The honest collection of provincial revenue and the management of loans, not so much in the special interest of the moment or of the temporary needs of the government, as upon a basis permanently of most advantage to the province.

2. The keeping of the ordinary expenditure of the province within the ordinary revenue.

3. The appointment of an auditor-general independent of the government, who shall have power to insist upon the accuracy and honesty of accounts before they are paid.

4. The putting up of all public works to tender, and the giving of the contract to the lowest bidder.

5. The cutting off of all needless extravagances in connection with the administration of the various departments, and an absolute rule that public money shall not be paid out unless a proper voucher is first presented.

6. The repeal of the present highway act and the enactment of a law which, while not diminishing the amount of provincial money given to the roads, shall vest the management of the roads and the appointment of all officials in the county councils.

7. The survey and valuation of our crown lands, so that the interests of the province may be conserved, and the lumber operators, both large and small, have encouragement and fair and honest treatment.

8. The inauguration of an agricultural and immigration policy as well as the promotion of the settling of our own lands by our own people.

9. The improvement in quality and reduction in price of our school books, so that our people shall not be robbed of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but shall get the best possible value for their money.

10. The extension and encouragement of local schools, so that every man in the province who has a family may have an opportunity to give his children an elementary education.

11. An increase in the provincial allowance to school teachers.

12. The secrecy of the ballot, and an honest carrying out of the election laws, believing that every citizen of the province entitled to the franchise should be free to vote as his conscience directs.

These are proposals which must appeal powerfully to all electors who desire good government and who have come to realize the folly, extravagance and failure of the present administration. These issues touch the pocket, the pride and the comfort of all who live in this province and who have so long endured the rapidly growing burden of misgovernment. In advocating these changes Mr. Hazen makes effective answer to the assertion that while he criticizes he has nothing constructive to offer.

Last evening's function must rank as both important and successful in an unusual degree. It reveals the opposition as in fighting humor, aggressive but not over-confident, ready for the fray in most of the constituencies, busily organizing in the others, and firmly believing that at the forthcoming elections the people will overwhelm the Robinson government.

AT OTTAWA

Mr. Borden and his lieutenants kept the government on the defensive Monday during the debate on the address. The speeches from the treasury benches provided little comfort for supporters who are seeking campaign material. The Colonial conference made no great impression in Canada, and repeated references to what was done there, even in the deft phrases of the Premier are of small significance now when Canada is interested mainly in good government at home. Nor will talk of the All-Red line avail much in the absence of a definite statement as to what Britain is going to do about it.

On the other hand the country cannot fail to note the significance of Mr. Borden's prompt and plain challenge to the government, and particularly to Dr. Pugsley, in the matter of the latter gentleman's corruption charges, and it will not fail to remark that no impetuous yearning for an imperial inquiry into the campaign methods of 1904 caused the lips of the Minister of Public Works to open to any purpose yesterday when this question was under discussion. Later on, perhaps, he will reveal an earnest affection for investigation, or will present to the House and the country, and definitely, the reasons which impelled him to utter the vague threats in Fairview in September last. Mr. Borden makes it clear that Dr. Pugsley is not to be allowed to plead lack of opportunity to take the people fully into his confidence.

The debate, so far as it has gone, gives evidence of an intention on the part of the government to deal much in generalities, and a determination on the part of Mr. Borden and his lieutenants to press sharply home questions in which the electors are vitally interested. Sir Wilfrid Pugsley devoted some attention yesterday to Mr. Borden's Halifax platform. The country did not expect that he would say much in favor of it. But anything that he said against it is more than counterbalanced by the striking fact that the government's programme of new legislation discloses an intent to borrow very extensively from the very platform Sir Wilfrid seeks to discredit.

COUNCIL OR COMMISSION?

Whatever may be the outcome of the resolution of which Mr. Frink gave notice at Monday's Council meeting, his action in placing the commission idea definitely before the taxpayers at this time can scarcely fail to give a healthful impetus to public interest in civic administration, and to concentrate attention upon the weaknesses of the present system as now carried on. The Telegraph not long ago devoted considerable space to explaining the nature of the civic commission plan adopted by Galveston, Des Moines and other cities, the reasons for the change from the old methods, and the

advantages credited to the new form of administration. Briefly stated these cities, finding grave objections to government by a mayor and city council, resolved upon a business administration, and to that end obtained legislation whereby control of civic affairs was vested in a few men who shared the confidence of a large majority of the people, who were well paid, and who were prepared to devote their time exclusively to their public duties. Partisan politics did not enter into the question at all. The attempt was only to escape corrupt, incompetent and wasteful management, and to find officials who were honest, progressive, economic and independent—who labored intelligently for the people who paid them and who trusted them, the taxpayers.

In looking at Galveston and Des Moines, it is true, we do not find conditions exactly similar to those confronting us here. The civic enterprises in hand in those places differ somewhat from our own, and thus far we have escaped most of the more glaring evils of American municipal politics, though our methods and our results alike unite to form a serious indictment against civic administration as we have it now. Observers in these matters will hesitate at accepting any ready-made bridge which promises safe conduct to satisfactory administration, so much depends upon local conditions and upon the personal element; but we are confident that citizens will welcome a public discussion of the commission plan and will give careful attention to the arguments advanced in its favor.

If Mr. Frink today could put forward five men who would instantly command public confidence, upon whom the people felt that they could depend for energetic, progressive, independent and businesslike conduct of affairs, a popular majority for the commission plan would be a foregone conclusion. This is the difficulty—to find the right men. Once found they would, beyond question, be worth liberal salaries. But if the commission plan appeared likely to bring forward only place-seekers, men who had failed in other lines of endeavor, who lacked decision and judgment, then the people would be disposed to believe they would be greater safety in a comparatively large council, even of the present kind.

The question which Mr. Frink raises should excite much public discussion. The Board of Trade and other bodies should give it their attention. And an early effort should be made to place before the citizens a compact account of the commission plan and the modifications needed for its successful application to local conditions.

It is well presented outside the Council it will receive a large measure of popular favor.

THE MYSTERY OF AOKI

Announcement of the coming departure of the Japanese ambassador from Washington, just as the battleship fleet of the United States sets out on its spectacular voyage to the Pacific, is accompanied by a cloud of explanations which do not explain. It is obvious, of course, that the leave-taking of Aoki in no way resents the departure of the ambassador, but it is also a diplomatic rupture, but it is obvious also that the absence of a known and satisfactory reason for his going imparts to the discussion of Japanese relations an electric quality which the movement of the great fleet cannot but heighten.

The intention to send the fleet was advertised long ago. There is no fresh development in the immigration difficulty between the two countries. How comes it then, will be asked, that the recall of the ambassador is made so theatrically to coincide with the departure of the American armada? There is, the world has abundant assurance from both nations, no cause for war and no thought of anything but a sincere determination to settle outstanding questions in a liberal and sensible spirit. Yet at heart Japan knows of no satisfactory reason why the United States fleet should leave the Atlantic. If a desire for consultation with his government is the somewhat commonplace reason for the summons to Aoki, as is quite probable, the United States is in no mood to give full and quick credence to any such explanation.

As the fleet is leaving, and as the ambassador's departure revives discussion of Japanese relations, Mr. Roosevelt has some remarks to make about naval preparations. They are in the line of the events just discussed may lend them undue significance. Against whom is the United States preparing by land and sea? The United States asks the same question about Japan because of the activity in the arsenals and dockyards of the Mikado. The questions are not answered. Let us see what Mr. Roosevelt says about preparing for war in time of peace.

"It was hoped," he says in his message, "that the limitation of armaments, but even before it had assembled informal inquiries had developed that as regards naval armaments, the only ones in which this country had any interest, it was hopeless to try to devise any plan for which there was the slightest possibility of securing the assent of the nations gathered at The Hague. No plan was the result of more than the upbuilding of our navy. To build one battleship of the best and most advanced type a year would barely keep our fleet up to its present force. This is not enough. In my judgment, we should this year provide for four battleships. But it is idle to build battleships unless in addition to providing the men, and the means for thorough training, we provide the auxiliaries for them, unless we provide docks, the coaling stations, the collars and supply ships that they need. We are extremely deficient in coaling stations and docks on

the Pacific, and this deficiency should not longer be permitted to exist. Plenty of torpedo boats and destroyers should be built. Both on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, fortifications of the best type should be provided for all our greatest harbors."

There is a reference to the need for a larger army, couched in the same sort of language, and a more extended reference to the well-high defenses of Alaska. Aoki, one doubts not, has already acquainted his government with some of the striking features of Mr. Roosevelt's message, as proof that the United States is making preparations for a period of strenuous peace.

A CURIOUS TRAGEDY

The attention of the Attorney-General is directed to the testimony given at the inquest at Steeves Mountain Tuesday, to the nature of the inquiry, and to the verdict returned. The place is, so to speak, the scene of the crime. The evidence given this morning is somewhat fragmentary. Some of it, however, is most unusual in tenor, and clearly suggests the propriety of some inquiry by the law officers of the crown even if they do not go beyond a review of that portion of it relating to the autopsy, if one was made.

Residents of the vicinity, who made up the jury, and the doctor who was a witness, were alike satisfied that drowning was the cause of death, and their opinion is entitled to due weight. But if the evidence is to be relied upon it would indicate that resuscitation was quite possible for a considerable period after the unfortunate woman was discovered.

The suggestion contained in the evidence that the woman's husband attempted to strangle her while apparently seeking to restore respiration must be dismissed in view of the verdict. The evidence on this point, so far as it can be judged from the summary at hand, is most extraordinary. Some who stood at the man's side are represented as swearing that they could not tell just what he was doing or what his purpose was. One witness appears to have sworn that the woman spoke, and when asked if she fell into the water replied in the negative. From a case of this nature there is certain to spring up a crop of unpleasant gossip, and prompt and thorough inquiry by the provincial authorities should suffice to stifle it by making known the facts. Unless the juryman failed of their full duty some of the evidence does the husband most serious injustice. For many reasons suggested by the account printed on another page the Attorney-General should act without delay.

Whatever may be the outcome of the Horne case at Steeves Mountain, the evidence recorded at the inquest clearly necessitated the decision of the authorities to go beyond the stage at which it rested after the proceedings before the coroner. Witnesses had made assertions of the grossest character, and while the value of these assertions is at present uncertain, no course was open but the one taken. The poverty of the family and the manner in which they lived will doubtless be found to account for many circumstances which look suspicious to outsiders.

It appears from statements made yesterday that no autopsy was made. No doubt this will now be done. Since the woman lived for some time after she was discovered, and even was able to speak, the gross character of the assertions of drowning in the absence of the absolute medical proof usual in such circumstances. And if competent investigation shall prove the verdict well founded, the authorities have still to clear up to their satisfaction the nature of the efforts at resuscitation of which several witnesses gave so strange a description.

It would appear that one or more material witnesses who were not heard at the inquest will now have to be examined. The husband, who is now detained by the authorities, will be examined in his innocence. Very likely he is telling the truth. If so he must see that a satisfactory investigation is necessary to disclose the motives of those witnesses who gave testimony so remarkable before the coroner. A post mortem examination should have been made before the inquest was held, and since that was not done the burial should have been postponed. Now that the authorities have set to work the testimony heard should be sifted thoroughly. If some of the witnesses told the truth the verdict is not to be easily understood.

CAMPAIGN FUNDS

President Roosevelt says "the need for collecting large campaign funds would vanish if Congress provided an appropriation for the proper and legitimate expenses of each of the great national parties, an appropriation ample enough to meet the necessity for thorough organization and machinery, which requires a large expenditure of money. Then the stipulation should be made that no party receiving campaign funds from the treasury should accept more than a fixed amount from any individual subscriber or donor, and the necessary publicity for receipts and expenditures could without difficulty be provided."

The proposal is scarcely convincing. If the present Dominion Parliament, for example, should vote money for the campaign expenses of both parties the country would have no guarantee that the government would not raise, by means which have previously been employed, a further substantial sum for its own war chest. This would be quite contrary to the results which would be to increase the total spent for election purposes without diminishing the ruling party's enthusiastic use of the "resources of civilization" over and above the sum openly granted by Parliament.

Something to better Canadian conditions might result from a thorough examination of the campaign methods of 1904, but Dr. Pugsley's strong preference for libel suits rather than a royal commission bids fair to postpone the inquiry indefinitely. Dr. Pugsley knows, and the other ministers know, that the government election fund in 1904 was of unusual proportions. This may account for their failure to accept Mr. Borden's proposal for a commission.

NOTE AND COMMENT

If Dr. Pugsley really is pining for a libel suit he should study some of the trenchant remarks of Mr. J. K. Fleming, M. P. P. . . .

Speaking of the inquiry under oath into matters connected with the chamberlain's office, is the Recorder to be the examining lawyer, a witness, or both? . . .

Ald. Kelley is mentioned as "prosecuting attorney" for the Council investigation in the matter of the chamberlain's office. The recorder is to be a witness, evidently. . . .

The request that the local government, the city and the county authorities act together in properly lighting the Suspension bridge is reasonable enough to warrant immediate action. . . .

Advices from St. Martins mention Hon. Mr. McKewen, as likely to stick to the county. The government needs a ticket in the city. Thus far the available timber is not very promising. . . .

Dr. Pugsley has been talking corruption again. At a Liberal rally in Ottawa Tuesday he handed out some more generalities about the famous campaign of 1904, this time mentioning St. John as being "flooded with money." Names again are lacking. His repeated reference to Mr. Blair and La Presse is also vague. He is in a bad way. For days it is still clear that he has given Mr. Borden not the slightest cause to invoke the libel law. He again ignores Mr. Borden's proposal for a royal commission with power to go to the bottom of the campaign exertions of both parties in 1904, and he seems not to have noticed Mr. Borden's telling reference on Monday to the question of La Presse in which it was made clear that investigation in that quarter would come near the seats of the mighty in the administration. Dr. Pugsley, it is clear, will have to have his ideas about the art of revelation remoulded by some of the opposition experts.

The whole country is asking why he does not close with Mr. Borden's offer to examine the case. Pugsley would testify under oath. Does that prospect give him pause? . . .

Mr. Chamberlain, writing to the Birmingham Liberal Unionist Association, says he hopes before long to take his place in the front rank in the fight for Unionism. "This," as the Montreal Gazette says, "should be good news for Mr. Balfour and the Conservative wing of the party. There have been claims made in England that at the last election the mass of the Liberal Unionist voters went back to the Liberal party and voted to stay. If they can be won back Mr. Chamberlain will win them, and if they are, the present government's existence therefore is neither likely to be long nor merry."

POLITICAL OPINION

(Toronto Telegram.)

Nova Scotia was a subject of anxious thought to Hon. W. S. Fielding in the early stages of the coronion plot at Ottawa. For days it was a question whether Mr. Fielding would not go out and stay out rather than assist Sir Wilfrid Laurier to trample down provincial rights and national school. Finally Mr. Fielding decided to stay with his leader.

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The Indian Summer.

(Springfield Republican.)

When dim clouds streak low along the sunset horizon; when the dew drops glisten, and the moon tips and floats in snow mist, far up when there steals into the senses, as in the precious early morning sleep, an apprehensive shiver, that warns one that the sweet dream is even now vanishing, and at a sound it will be gone—then we know that we have been dwelling in a house of vision, in the magic circle of illusion—the Indian summer. The charm that has pervaded all our neighboring earth and made our landscape what our life would have been, that serene repose and a sound it