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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, AUG. 15, 1911.

ST. JOHN NOMINATIONS.

There was no lack of enthusiasm at the Conservative Convention that last night nominated Dr. John W. Daniel as the candidate for the City and County of St. John, and Mr. H. A. Powell, K. C., for the City of St. John. The nominations were unanimous. There were no other candidates considered or to be considered. There was no division of sentiment among those in whose hands had been placed the duty of selecting standard bearers for the Conservative party. This was in strong contrast with the Liberal Convention held last week, where even the prestige of the Minister of Public Works was threatened by internal strife among the delegates, and which rendered doubtful for a time his own nomination.

The only question which arose was which of the candidates should be nominated for the City and which for the County, and to settle this question a committee was appointed, the candidates placing themselves on reserve in their hands. The report of the committee favored Dr. Daniel for the City and County, and Mr. Powell for the City. The action of the committee was endorsed by the convention by a vote of 115 for Daniel for the City and County, and 66 for Powell. This settled the question, and the nominations were then made in accordance with the vote cast.

The feeling of the convention was that Dr. Daniel, because of his large personal connections in the County, would prove the stronger candidate, while Mr. Powell's intimate knowledge of the somewhat peculiar methods of the Minister of Public Works in his dealings with public affairs placed him in a position to treat most effectively with Mr. Pugsley.

The Conservative party enters the contest with two of the strongest candidates it has had in any election since Confederation, and there is no lack of confidence as to the final result. The party is well organized. It is enthusiastic and buoyed up by the justice of its fight against graft, bad government and an unwelcome agreement with the United States which threatens a rupture of the relations of Canada with the rest of the British Empire—a policy of veiled treason similar to that once before attempted under the name of Unrestricted Reciprocity under the leadership of Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, then leader of the Opposition in the Canadian House of Commons.

On that occasion Mr. now Sir Wilfrid, Laurier, sought to ride to power at the sacrifice of British Connection. The good sense of the people of Canada twenty years ago set aside the ambitions of Mr. Laurier. And they will do the same on September 21. St. John was in the forefront of the Opposition to the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity then, and returned two Conservatives. It will repeat its action of twenty years ago because the electorate of this City is loyal to the Empire and will not stand for disruption.

Both of the gentlemen chosen as standard bearers for the Conservative party are men of wide legislative experience. Mr. Powell was first elected as a representative for the County of Westmorland in the general election of 1870 for the Provincial Legislature, and held the seat until 1895 when he was chosen to contest a bye-election in the same county for the House of Commons in which he was successful. In the following year he was again successful in the general election, and sat for the county until 1900. Dr. Daniel has been the representative of St. John City since 1904, when he was successful in a bye-election as also in the general elections of 1904 and 1908.

Both of the candidates are men of sterling reputation against whom no honest and integrity word has been or can be said. With such candidates, the success of the Conservative party in the two principal constituencies of New Brunswick is assured.

THE NIOBE.

The mishap to the Niobe is regrettable. The loss involved in repairs will probably run into large figures. The work of training will be interrupted for some time, and the large number of permanent men on pay in addition to the cadets will be eating out of their heads without return and at the country's expense. That, however, while important, is not by any means the serious matter involved in the whole incident.

The serious phase of the question is the light thrown on the conception of our naval authorities as to what are the purposes to be served by the large naval expenditure to which the Government's policy has committed Canada. Two vessels—neither of them ships of the least possible use in actual warfare—have been purchased and fitted up at a cost of nearly two millions of dollars. They have been manned and officered from Great Britain, and they are being used as training vessels, one on the Pacific and one on the Atlantic coast. The upkeep and maintenance of both are assumed by the Canadian Government. Both are supposed to have capable commanders, and both are under the control of Admiral Kingsmill and the Marine authorities at Ottawa. And both are supposed to be governed by the traditions and practice of the British Navy.

What was the Niobe doing on the dangerous coast of southwestern Nova Scotia, lying off harbors, she could not enter, and steaming in the dense fogs and dangerous currents incident to that coast? The supposed work for which the Niobe was purchased, and for which Canada has paid, and is still paying, is the efficient drill and education of the young Canadian cadets who are to be made into skilled and hardened fighting marines. Did Admiral Kingsmill, or Commander MacDonald advise the excursions to Yarmouth and Liverpool in pursuance of and as necessary to the accomplishment of that object?

The exploration of the foggy current coursed and rocky coasts of Yarmouth and Shelburne counties is not, it would seem, a necessary adjunct to that training and drill. In actual war the enemy's fleet would not likely be sheltering in that quarter, nor would the actual training of the cadets be better carried out there than on the open seas.

Is it not the plain blunt fact that the Niobe was there in pursuance of Government orders, made in the interest of party managers, for the supposed advancement of party interests in these small localities? The political fortunes of the party in Yarmouth, would it be thought, be advanced if the ship and the men and the band of

the Canadian navy could be exhibited. She couldn't enter the harbor at Yarmouth, but she could be pointed to in the roadstead outside, and the other accessories could be landed and displayed to the advantage of the local party managers.

So much for Yarmouth. But Mr. Fielding's county could not be passed over, and the following telegram from Liverpool is said to have heated the wires to Ottawa: "The Niobe must come to Liverpool. It she does not the whole bottom will drop out of our celebration. If you can't send the warship, at least order 'her band here.' It is certain that other celebrations were on foot, and that the Niobe would be out campaigning actively during the summer and early fall in the interest of the party. The unfortunate and costly accident has put an end to this in part, but possibly as requested by the Liverpool people, the 'band' can still be used to advantage.

And so we have exhibited the Canadian Government's ideal of the Canadian navy as a party patronage instrument. Could anything more deplorable and humiliating be conceived? Could anything of like kind be thought of as possible with the British Navy? Even the most hardened opponent of the Laurier Government would scarcely have ventured to depict such a course as possible. But Mr. Brodeur's lax ideas it seems were not fully measured, and needed this additional instance to show how thoroughly low and contemptible they were.

From the first it was feared that the whole Laurier navy scheme was narrowed to lines of party patronage and advantage. The developments since 1909 have tended to confirm these fears and this latest instance is compelling proof. Not the defence of Canada, nor the strengthening of the Empire has been the result, or appears to be the aim of the Government. Expenditure, patronage, political advantage, have been the main controlling ideas and they have had a fitting instrument in Mr. Brodeur, and his department.

It is time for a change, and it cannot come too soon. The people of Canada are willing to assist in bearing the burdens of Empire and strengthening her defences. They are not willing to throw away millions for no good purpose, under a pretence of aiding the Empire, whilst in reality ministering to the evil practices of party administration. We should like to see the correspondence in connection with this whole business. And we should like to know if it is true that the Niobe was without a pilot when the accident occurred.

PLAIN TRUTHS FOR CANADIANS.

(Philadelphia Inquirer.)

But while the project for Imperial trade federation has been suspended, its appeal is too obvious and attractive for it to have been abandoned and as the pressure of direct taxation, already almost intolerable, becomes steadily more severe, a revision of sentiment in favor of the Unionist programme is sure, sooner or later, to occur.

THAT IS WHAT MR. J. J. HILL HAS IN MIND WHEN HE SAYS THAT THE IMPORTANT PART OF THE CANADIAN TREATY IS WHAT IT HAS PREVENTED. Had the opportunity which offered been rejected, it would not quickly have occurred, and with the institution of an Imperial trade federation to which Canada had become a party, the United States would have irretrievably lost a growing and already important market which it would have been embarrassed to make good.

IN PROTESTING AS THEY DID AGAINST THE COMPACT, THE UNIONISTS SHOWED AN INTELLIGENT APPREHENSION OF THE SITUATION. THEIR CRITICISM WAS JUSTIFIED, BUT THE SUCCESS OF THE POLICY THEY ADVOCATE WOULD HAVE BEEN A BAD THING FOR THIS COUNTRY, AND GREAT BRITAIN'S LOSS IS OUR GAIN.

Current Comment

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

It becomes clearer every day that the Reciprocity Treaty was not necessary to obtain all the advantages that Canadians get from it. Congress was ready to make the free list even larger than the treaty schedule, without any Canadian concessions. This is proved by the fact that Congress has gone on adding wool, meat and manufactured cereals to the free list. President Taft knew what was coming and cleverly captured the Canadian concessions as a gratuitous donation.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The line-up of the two sides on the Reciprocity issue is significant. The Laurier programme has the support in the main of those who hope selfishly to gain by the experiment. Mr. Borden's patriotic stand, on the other hand, is endorsed not only by practically his whole party, but by many of the recognized leaders in various spheres of Canadian life, who independently of party considerations, and in some cases, against the interests of their own pockets, wholeheartedly oppose an entangling commercial union with Washington.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

The women of New Jersey have a grievance—a full bodied one. It exists in an enactment of the legislature making it illegal to use the bodies or plumage of birds for personal adornment. An outcry against this invasion of their prerogative may be expected, as a majority of the gentle sex find it difficult to educate their finer feelings to that point where they will admit that the adage, "Fine feathers make fine birds," should apply alone to their own kind.

(Montreal Gazette.)

It is announced from Ottawa that one recommendation of General French's report on the militia has been adopted and that throughout the country the corps are now organized in divisions. This is no doubt theoretically a good thing. The militia, however, will not be what it should be till some practical person discovers why the young men do not volunteer into its ranks as they used to do, and then discovers a remedy for the defect.

(Guelph Herald.)

Advocates of Reciprocity are profuse in declarations that the proposed agreement is not the thin edge of the wedge towards a general removal of tariff duties. Short of a downright declaration that once Reciprocity is achieved in natural products the manufacturers' citadel will be attacked, we know of nothing that could be more significant than the general attitude of the Liberal party on this question.

(Montreal Star.)

There is no reason for Hon. Mr. Oliver to feel so tremendously aggrieved over the refusal of his colleagues to give him a chance to vindicate himself before a Parliamentary committee. He can set forth his side of the cause in a specific affidavit, telling us the simple facts of "where he got it," and "what he did with it."

(Houston Post.)

With the exception of regarding us as a perverted scoundrel, a debaucher of youth, a hellion of the superlative degree, an assassin of religion and a friend of crime generally, the pastors of our denomination who disagree with us about prohibition have quite a high opinion of us.



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ONE MAN RULE NOW IN KANSAS

Concordia Mayor Declared Himself the Whole Works and Runs the Town—Many Popular Reforms Invoked.

Concordia, Kan., Aug. 12.—In the search for the ideal form of municipal government, a town where the City Marshal, when not engaged in arresting plain and fancy drunks, puts in his time doing real work in the streets with a shovel, should be able to furnish some valuable data, if it can't point the way. Concordia is in this position. Quite unconsciously and without the slightest intention of making experiments, Concordia two years ago adopted a one-man form of government. And so well was the town pleased with the plan that last spring it voted by a big majority, in spite of violent opposition, to continue it for at least another two years.

Previous to the new era the history of Concordia's municipal government was about that of every town whose affairs are conducted by a mayor and ward councilmen. Sometimes the city government was better than the average and sometimes it was worse. Sometimes the city's "sanitary" laws were enforced with praiseworthy effectiveness and sometimes not at all. It experienced the usual succession of "liberal" administrations, "law and order" administrations, "public improvement" administrations and "economy" administrations, and through it all it got about fifty cents' worth of government for every dollar it paid in taxes, and was about convinced that that was about the best that could be done.

But two years ago Concordia, with

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no deeper design than that of choosing a good man for the office, elected Homer Kennett Mayor and learned better.

At the same time Concordia elected a city council. It may have been the most efficient council the town has ever chosen; it was never given an opportunity to show what it could do would do. The Mayor saw in it only possibilities of an incumbrance and set about to render it ineffective. His method was actually simple. He used neither force nor diplomacy, but utterly ignored the council and proceeded as if he was the entire city government—which he actually was.

Only Few on Payroll. He named no committees, submitted no list of appointees for the city jobs and asked the council for no instructions. Employing at his own figure the few employees he deemed necessary he set about the task of doing the work of the city that had to be done with the money the city had to spend.

Naturally, the council objected to being abated as a nuisance and at first attempted to get into the governing game. When a councilman had a speech to make at council meeting the mayor listened patiently, but continued in his own course. Frequent attempts to force the council into action were made by persons disappointed in their efforts to have city money spent for their benefit. The mayor was referred to as a tyrant and the councilmen were urged to assert their manhood and put down his rule. At times the councilmen seemed disposed to listen to this kind of advice. And if there had been among them as shrewd a man as one of the wealthy businessmen of the Fifth district, he did during his first term the most effective street work Concordia had ever known, he enforced the ordinances, he met the emergencies that arose (including a smallpox epidemic) promptly and wisely, and in spite of the empty treasury he didn't run the city into debt. So when the next instalment of taxes was turned over by the county treasurer it was available for new improvements, and Mr. Kennett's genius for government was for the first time was able to assert itself.

Concordia is one of the older towns of the State and has a population of five thousand, but it remained for Mayor Kennett last year to put in the first permanent improvement the town had ever bought and paid for. It was a concrete culvert to replace an old wooden crossing over one of the three waterways which ran through the town.

Starts Reform Wave. It is true Concordia has sidewalks and sewers, but these have all been paid for by the owners of the abutting property. Also Concordia has a municipal water works system. But in the twenty-two years since it was built just \$4,000 has been paid on the debt, and every dollar that was paid a year after Homer Kennett had been Mayor.

Concordia is built on a series of low hills with the three above mentioned water courses converging in the business district. Ordinarily these courses are dry, but it doesn't take much of a rain storm to send a torrent down each. Occasionally store basements are flooded and the people in the lower parts of the town are run out of their homes. During Mayor Kennett's administration dams have been built at the heads of these streams to check the overflow, and to accompany every rain. Much of the old wooden crossings over these ditches have been replaced by substantial culverts of cement. Even the mayor's enemies admit the streets have been kept up as they have never been kept before, and an extensive experiment in oiling the roads have been carried out. Something like \$6,050 has been spent since last February for city improvements.

Added to the \$4,000 spent in rebuilding water works bonds, and Concordia has put over \$10,000 into permanent improvements this year. And yet the balance on hand in the city treasury is more than \$10,000 greater than when the "one man government" went into effect, two years ago.

Here are the balances on hand, according to the quarterly statements of the city treasurer, on April 30, 1909, when Mr. Kennett's term began and on April 30, 1911:

	1909	1911
General fund . . .	\$406.50	\$3,571.73
Bridge and walk . . .	652.23	5,134.71
Library . . .	1,457.90	1,369.83
Water works . . .	5,706.88	6,430.80
Sinking . . .	2,952.95	3,549.18
Interest . . .	1,952.22	1,751.58
Cemetery . . .	550.43	1,275.64
Totals . . .	\$12,792.20	\$23,113.57

His Own Street Commissioner.

"How has it been done? By keeping down the stealing," the mayor of Concordia won't deny. By "stationing" the mayor means taking a dollar of the city's money without giving a hundred cents' worth of service in return, and the mayor gets the service for the city by substituting methods of his own for "the customary thing."

It is customary for an administration to give out to its friends at least as many jobs as the law allows. Marshall Works on Streets. There are just five men regularly on Concordia's payroll—a city clerk, a marshal, a night marshal, an engineer and a fire chief—and the monthly payroll totals \$225. So far Mayor Kennett has been able to get along without a city attorney or an official paper, and as for the job street commissioner the Mayor fills that himself.

It is customary for the marshal of a town like Concordia to devote all his spare time to a study of the box scores on the sporting page, but Marshal Cecil McKee, of Concordia, is vastly more familiar with the technique of handling a dirt shovel than he is with the intricacies of the delayed start.

It is customary in all cities to turn all construction work over to contractors at more or less profitable prices, but Concordia has been so far from kind to do Mayor Kennett buys the material, hires the men and superintends the job himself. This practice has brought forth a loud wail from the contractors, their lamentations were heard by the Councilmen, who protested to the Mayor that this thing had gone far enough. For once the Mayor

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enies charge; but with the streets kept as they have never been kept before, with public improvement being made at the same time the public debt was being decreased, with the town being cleaned up physically and morally, with the city's fund piling up in the treasury and without a cent's increase in taxes, Concordia decided by a big majority last spring to take another chance. But when Mr. Kennett retires from office his most valuable monument will not be a number of substantial public improvements and a full treasury, but an object lesson as to the value of a compact form of municipal government.

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The International Railway Company of New Brunswick

January 3, 1911.