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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1912.

MR. BURCHILL'S LUMBER FIGURES.

Mr. Burchill, who was elected as an independent member of the House, from Northumberland at a bye-election in 1908, has proved himself to be the star orator of the Opposition, particularly on the lumber question. During the budget debate of last year he made a speech which was remarkable for considerable bitterness regarding the treatment accorded the lumbermen of the Province by the Government. On Monday night he repeated this speech with some additions. Mr. Burchill is considerable of a poseur and would have the House believe that he is perfectly candid in all that he says and that all the statements he makes are made solely in the public interest; that he is more deeply interested in the preservation of the forests and the future of New Brunswick than he is in making money out of the lumber he cuts on the public domain.

The unselfish character of Mr. Burchill was demonstrated a few years ago by the deep interest he took in the Northumberland deal, one of the most scandalous transactions that ever took place in the history of New Brunswick politics and out of which he secured the Speakership of the House of Assembly.

Mr. Burchill has also displayed his interest in the preservation of the forests of New Brunswick by attending those gatherings of lumbermen and others known as "Forestry Conventions," wherever they are held. Mr. Burchill is not a silent member at these gatherings, and his voice has been frequently heard in support of resolutions favoring greater protection for the forests.

From all appearances Mr. Burchill is as great a poseur at these conventions as he is in the Legislature, for, according to official reports, his operations in the woods have been carried on in the most destructive manner possible and without any regard to the future preservation of the forests or even the public revenue.

During the course of his speech last year on the budget Surveyor General Grimmer read a letter from the superintendent of scalers regarding the operations of Mr. Burchill on the Crown land leases held by him. Here is the letter in full:

March 20th, 1911.

Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer, Surveyor General.

Dear Sir,—I beg leave to state that it is reported by our scalers that in the operation of J. P. Burchill this winter, he has neglected to take out his tops and it is estimated that there are fully twenty-five per cent. of the lumber which he should have taken out left in the woods. His operators have made it a practice of only taking one butt log out of a tree. Of course there are exceptions, but generally this has been the case. Anywhere through his works, so it is reported, can be found top logs twelve and fourteen feet long which would top off six and seven inches.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) W. H. BERRY.

From this it would seem that Mr. Burchill holds one few of lumbering and forest protection for his convention speeches and another for his practical operations in the woods.

The figures which Mr. Burchill produced to prove that the increased stumpage returns were due to an increased cut were somewhat unusual and very incomplete. Mr. Burchill has had a good deal to say on this question because it affects him personally. Notwithstanding his assertion that he has not cut a single stick of lumber more than he formerly did, he is now paying about double the stumpage he previously paid and it is a somewhat remarkable thing that just about double the stumpage is now being collected than was collected by the old Government. Mr. Burchill's own statement therefore, regarding his own business is about as good evidence as any yet produced by the Government that the lumber cut in the Province has not been increased though the Government is collecting about twice as much from stumpage as their predecessors got.

Just where Mr. Burchill got the figures he read in the House on Monday night, no one seems to know, but there is a strong presumption that at least some of them are incorrect. In 1903 Hon. Mr. Morrissey, then in Opposition, made the charge that the old Government were not collecting the full stumpage from the lumber operators and during the course of the session Surveyor General Dunn trotted out some figures that bear a very strong resemblance to those furnished by Mr. Burchill. Mr. Dunn's figures were not correct but had been made up with great care for the purpose of deceiving the people into the belief that the Government was collecting all the stumpage that was their due. One of the principal features of these figures was the amount of lumber held over on the Miramichi, at Campbellton and Bathurst. Hitherto this has been a jealously guarded secret, as exact knowledge concerning the quantity of lumber in stock, particularly if the quantity was large, was supposed to affect the spring market. But in 1903 and again in 1912 there is no hesitancy in making this secret public, be the effect on the market what it may.

Mr. Burchill in a most matter of fact tone informed the House that this year there are sixty millions of lumber awaiting shipment. This is about half of an average year's output on the Miramichi. Unfortunately he gave no particulars as to who was holding this immense quantity of lumber but dealt in generalities only. Mr. Burchill will have to be more specific in his statements before anyone will take them as a serious answer to the facts and figures which Hon. Mr. Grimmer laid before the Legislature last year concerning the lumber operations on the North Shore, facts and figures which neither Mr. Burchill or any member of the Opposition has ever touched upon since they were made.

THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE.

The determination of the Borden Government to make the Grand Trunk Railway Company live up to its agreements is an encouraging sign of the times. The company has a bill before Parliament for the purpose of increasing its financial powers. In the Railway Committee of the House last week Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, referring to the failure of the company to reinstate its employees who went on strike in 1910, intimated that the Government was prepared to refuse the company's requests for special legislation unless the agreement which had been made with the men was carried out.

Mr. Crothers stated before the committee that the company should be made to implement its undertakings. He had no desire, he said, to hold up the bill and did not wish to place any unjust burden on any railway company. He had the original letter in which Mr. C. M. Hays prom-

ised to reinstate all the men not guilty of a violation of the law during the strike. That agreement had not been lived up to by the company and the only recourse now was to refuse the company's requests when they came before Parliament for legislation.

This specific statement by a member of the Government will prove somewhat embarrassing to Liberal organs. The Telegraph, for instance, was loudly declaring recently that "there is one thing that Mr. Borden will stand for through all varieties of political weather, that is for special privileges for the interests." The attitude of the Government in the case of the Grand Trunk is a clear indication that Mr. Borden stands for the rights of the common people.

A POLITICAL ACROBAT.

The antics of the Scott Government in Saskatchewan are worth watching. A provincial election is approaching and on the question of the Province controlling her natural resources Mr. Walter Scott, the Premier, has found himself between the devil and the deep sea. In 1903 when Mr. Scott was one of the supporters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House of Commons he approved of the contention that the Western Provinces should control their own natural resources. In 1905 he capitulated to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, consented to Saskatchewan and Alberta being deprived of their natural assets, assisted in incorporating the surrender in the so-called Autonomy Act and accepted as his reward the Premiership of one of the new Provinces.

From that time right up to last year, as the Toronto News points out, Mr. Scott defended the land terms of the Autonomy Act as being wholly satisfactory to the Province and as absolutely meeting the constitutional and legal requirements of the situation. As late as October, 1910, he told a public meeting that anyone who wanted the land terms altered was a fit candidate for a lunatic asylum.

Last year the Alberta Government having demanded control of its own natural resources, Mr. Scott had to get partly into line, but, perhaps for consistency's sake, he still held out against provincial control of agricultural lands. But in this winter's session of the Saskatchewan Legislature the Premier has had to go all the way and adopt as his own policy that which Mr. Haultain has steadily advocated. The Opposition leader has a complete triumph, as have all advocates of provincial rights who for years carried on the struggle against the Laurier and Scott Governments.

In fear of the approaching provincial election the Scott Ministry has been forced to reverse its own policy and to seize the platform of the Opposition. It is probably the more ready to do this because there is no longer a Laurier Government to be embarrassed by a Saskatchewan in search of its rights. Both in Opposition and recently as Prime Minister, Mr. Borden has promised to lift Saskatchewan and Alberta to the political level of the rest of Confederation so far as that may be done by vesting in them the control of their own natural resources.

In the words of The Winnipeg Telegram, "the Government of Saskatchewan cannot have changed its opinion in twelve months on this subject. It may be a chameleon which is red when Ottawa is red, and blue when Ottawa is blue, but it seems more likely that it thinks it has discovered in this self-declared repudiation of its self-imposed statement of policy an opportunity to embarrass the present Ottawa Government. Its chief aim is, however, no doubt to save its own neck."

A BLOW TO FREE TRADE.

It is significant to note that tariff reform was a prominent question in the recent bye-election in South Manchester, England, which resulted in the overwhelming defeat of the candidate of the free trade Liberal Government. In his election address Mr. Glazebrook, the Unionist candidate, said he believed that by a sound measure of tariff reform the greatest of all social reforms can be achieved—an increase of employment and of wages. In his first message to the electors forwarded before his return to England he further pointed out that the Insurance Act "renders tariff reform more urgently necessary to protect our trade and provide more employment." On the other hand Sir A. A. Haworth, who asked re-election on his appointment to office, laid special stress on the fact that he was a staunch and whole-hearted free trader, and appealed to the electors to give the tariff reformers "no chance of saying that the country is weakening upon that question." The Tariff Reform League took an active part in the contest, about twenty meetings being held daily, and addressed by forty-eight speakers. It is significant that Mr. Glazebrook boldly avowed his intention to support duties on food, yet the Unionist vote increased by 1932 as against a decrease of 1469 in the free trade vote.

The tariff reform movement will certainly be aided by declarations such as that made by Dr. Dalbrück, German secretary of state for the interior. Speaking in the Reichstag on March 4 he said: "There is no occasion for a change in our economic policy. The customs tariff has worked well on the whole. The necessary technical improvements are to be undertaken before the expiry of the commercial treaties. During the last thirty years the industry of foreign countries has grown stronger. We must go out to fight both for the home market and also for foreign markets. Tariffs do not help us against foreign countries that protect themselves. Owing to 'Free Trade' England has to put up with anything foreign countries think fit to do."

Nothing would more effectually aid the tariff reform campaign, says the Toronto World in commenting on this statement, than the development of the commercial treaty system among protected nations and their refusal to extend reductions arranged by reciprocal concessions to countries that have nothing to offer in return. That course is already followed by the United States and its adoption by continental nations, particularly Germany, would unquestionably stimulate the call for provision of the means of compelling the entrance of British products on equal terms.

Current Comment

(Montreal Gazette.)

Signor Santoro took fifteen days to sum up the evidence for the prosecution in the trial of the Cammorristi at Viterbo, Italy. Perhaps this was not long, considering that the case has been before the court for a year and four days. The law in Italy has the common weakness of being liable to move with leaden feet. If in this case it has moved surely, however, much may be forgiven. Some one deserves the most severe of punishments for the crimes the trial disclosed.

(Montreal Herald.)

The most significant item in the news of the day is that which tells of how a Lachute doctor perished in the effort to answer the call of a sick man, to reach whom he had to go twenty-five miles over mountain roads in a snowstorm. He kept on going about when the horses failed, and died on the way. And what is most significant about such a relation is that nobody is surprised by it.

(Kingston Standard.)

The price of anthracite coal has been going up for some years. Every time there is a strike of coal miners, up goes the price of coal; but when the strike is over it does not come down again. No matter whether the miners or the coal barons win, the public is bound to lose.

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POWERS SEEKING TO END THE TURCO-ITALIAN TROUBLE

Paris, Mar. 27.—The powers are again trying to bring the Turco-Italian war to an end. They are now engaged in exchanging notes relative to the proposed concerted action at Constantinople to induce the Porte to negotiate an agreement. The powers are especially desirous of terminating the conflict, as they believe that the jingo public opinion of Italy will force the Italian government to make naval demonstrations which would be liable to bring about international complications.

Death Follows The Surgeon's Knife

Surgery is the fad in medical treatment, and many doctors still recommend a surgical operation for piles. Too often the results are fatal to the patient and even when the operation is a success there is not always a cure.

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It is worth while to try Dr. Chase's Ointment, even if you have been told that an operation is necessary. Many have escaped the knife by using this ointment, others have been cured by its use after operations had failed.

REV. H. A. CODY WRITES ON THE NEW CHARTER

To the Editor of The Standard.
Every responsible person must acknowledge the splendid work which has been done by the framers of our new city charter. They have spared neither time or thought in carrying out their difficult and exacting task. To them we owe a sincere debt of gratitude. Nevertheless, as the coat of mail may have a point of weakness or the polished Damascus blade, a flaw, so it is true with any work of man. Achilles was invulnerable except in his heel, and that weak spot proved his undoing.

Some time ago I mentioned from the pulpit what I believed to be a weakness in our new city charter, and I have not changed my opinion since. When I considered the most wonderful charter ever given to man, viz: The Ten Commandments, I find that the recognition of the Creator is not only mentioned at the beginning, but is woven like a golden thread throughout its entire warp and woof. Those Ten Commandments have been the basis of the best charters ever formed by the mind of man. They were written with "the finger of God" and carry to us better than follow the "pattern" which was given on the Mount.

The chairman of the charter committee was reported as saying that "the framing of the charter was a matter of politics, law and business and not religion." According to this statement, then, religion should have nothing to do with such subjects. But do we not find that the greatest and most beneficent nations have always considered the Divine strength as a very vital and integral part of their well-being? Is not British justice what it is today because of its marvelous religious fibre? Is not business raised to a higher level when it is conducted upon true religious principles? And politics—the science of government—becomes weak and nerveless, as history abundantly shows, when the creature is considered above the Creator. When the late queen of England was asked for the secret of England's greatness, did she point to her army, navy and industries? No. She pointed to the Bible, the Word of God as the explanation of it all.

It seems but natural and right in a Christian community when drafting an important charter, when so much is at stake, and when human minds are so liable to err, to recognize the need of Divine aid. Some years ago when an effort was made to erase the words "In God we trust," from the coins of the United States of America, a great protesting and successful outcry ensued. The motto "Dei Gratia." By the Grace of God, has recently been omitted from our own coins, but will, it is believed, be replaced in the future. If people desire to have it expressed in the currency of their country that material prosperity is by the Grace of a higher power, why should they not be willing to do the same in reference to the government of a city?

We are a young nation and growing. Our city is in the midst of rapid developments. Many complicated difficulties will confront us. Shall we follow the example of the builders of ancient Babel, leave God out of the question, and ignominiously fail, or shall we like young David, go forth to the battle in the name of the Lord Jehovah? A speaker at the citizens' meeting last night reminded me that the Bible says that we are to "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's." I wish to complete that verse which says, "And unto God the things that are God's."

Yours truly,

H. A. CODY.

Most Anything

Did You Know—

The term "Mossback" was originally applied to the Democrats of the United States after the American civil war, the word being taken from that mud turtles which lie in stagnant water accumulate a green mossy growth on their shells.

The man who jerged to a jig with a jug, got a jag.

Spring.
I'm languid; please pass The lassifrais.

Ponce de Leon found no cherries In the fountain of youth.

Don't retire over your lot. Let the kids play ball on it.

Johnny says:—
Yesterday I played ball On the street;
I was to bat and I Happened to meet
The ball on the nose;
It rose in the air And busted a window.
My paw made a swear, But mamma said: "Dearie, Don't punish the pet.
He's acting just like A real sufragee."

His Savings.
How much you got in the savings bank?
I asked Hi Hicks one day—"Well, now," says Hi, "my pile's so big I can't exactly say."

"I got a wife and three fine lads That thinks the world of me, A little outgate that was home, And a good, good apple tree."

"A garden grows beside my door To cheer the summer sun, And I can sit at evening And watch the shadows run."

"I have a little road to walk With flowers on each side, There's rivers here, and forests there, And stars at eventide."

"I have a lovely wad of spring, The dandelion's gold, The heavenly orchestra of birds, The sun-kissed hills unrolled."

"I have the splendors of the dawn— The solitudes of night— I have a cat, I have a pipe And I've my appetite."

Some politicians rely on the sovereign people because they can buy two votes for a sovereign. (English joke)

When old Jim Jones goes fishing, he always comes home late; the fish are so hungry for Jim he drinks the bait.

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