

Chamberlain's Early Life

It is now a little more than forty-three years since Mr. Chamberlain made his first appearance on a political platform. He was then a very young man, in his twenty-third year, and the fact that he was on the platform caused no remark or comment of any kind. He was one among scores of other young men at the same gathering, young men interested in politics possibly, but with equal possibility many of their young men who had no special political views one way or the other, but attached themselves to the Whig, Reform or Radical party because their fathers before them had been of the same political stripe.

The occasion referred to was that of the Birmingham, Eng., election in the British general elections of 1859, brought on by the defeat of the Derby Ministry on their Reform policy.

The Radical candidates for the vacant seats were William Scholefield and no less a person than the late John Bright. The "Moderate Liberal" candidate was a man whose name is very familiar in Ontario, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland. The latter had the support of the entire Conservative party in Birmingham—it must be admitted a very small section of the electorate of the borough at that period—and also of what was an important factor in the contest, the vote of the Palmerstonian Liberals.

This appearance of Mr. Chamberlain's might be passed over without any notice whatever but for the fact that the opposition was aimed, not at William Scholefield, but at John Bright, the advocate of "peace at any price," during the then but recently concluded Russian war.

The policy of Mr. Bright advocated in 1854-56 was closely analogous to the policy of the British pro-Boers of today, so heartily and successfully combated by Mr. Chamberlain. It is gratifying to find that the line of conduct Mr. Chamberlain has pursued is not new, not of impulse nor of hasty conclusions, but is the outcome of settled thought, of life-long convictions.

Nine years elapsed, the British general elections of 1865 had passed away, there being no contest in Birmingham, and still very little was known in the "wild west" City of Joseph Chamberlain, except in business circles and in connection with some two or three literary societies, and where he was noted for the fluency and frequency of his speeches.

The year 1868, though, brought Mr. Chamberlain to the front, locally at any rate, and it was soon very evident to the somewhat fossilized Whigs, Liberals and Radicals of Birmingham, that he "had come to stay." In the year previous, on the decease of William Scholefield, Mr. Chamberlain had taken a somewhat prominent part in supporting the candidature of Mr. George Dixon, as an advanced Liberal, against the pretension to the vacant seat of Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd, Conservative. Mr. Dixon, triumphed and Mr. Chamberlain rejoiced. In 1868 the National Education League was founded in England, and Mr. Chamberlain, then only 32 years of age, was chairman of the executive. The platform of the league was "free, compulsory and unsectarian" schools, while its main object really was to abolish in toto, as quickly and as speedily as possible, the denominational schools, which were under the control, for the most part of them, of the Anglican church.

The League sprang into existence early in 1868, and before the end of the year the name of Joseph Chamberlain as its champion was known from one end of England to the other.

In Birmingham he was the special aversion of the Conservative and Clerical party, and of their local organ, while the abuse, slander and misrepresentation showered upon him exceeded in violence anything he has since experienced, and that is saying a great deal.

No one need think, though, that "Young Joe," as he was generally spoken of, was silent under this storm of obloquy. He hit back, and his hits told. Accused of infidelity, he at once pointed to the fact of his record as a Sunday school teacher. A foolhardy opponent taunted him with being a monopolist, and of driving small men out of his own special line of manufacturing, that of wood screws. He retorted that his firm "had always paid its way and the rent of its premises, something no one had ever known his accuser to do, except under compulsion." The retort was crushing, all the more so as it was absolutely true. Platform orators declaimed, clergymen preached against him, all to no purpose, for in November, 1868, he was elected by a large majority over his opponent to the Birmingham city council. Two years later, in November,

1870, he was elected on the first Birmingham school board as one of the "Liberal Six," his colleagues being George Dixon, M.P., the Rev. Charles Vince, R. W. Dale, M.A., D.C.L., the famous theologian and Congregationalist preacher, Geo. Dawson, M.A., preacher and lecturer, who was of European reputation, and John Skerrow Wright, who was afterwards M.P. for Nottingham.

Honors still poured in upon Mr. Chamberlain, for in 1873 he was elected mayor of Birmingham, was re-elected in 1874, again in 1875 and only resigned in June, 1876, when he was elected member of parliament for that city. His colleagues then in the representation were John Bright and Philip Henry Muntz.

If Mr. Chamberlain had never done anything else since his career in the city council and school board of the great Midland metropolis would entitle him to the gratitude of his fellow townsmen especially and of English workmen generally.

It was the decided stand taken by Joseph Chamberlain backed by such famous educationists as Dawson, Dale, McCarthy, Jesse Collings and others of equal note which secured free education for the children of all Englishmen. It was Joseph Chamberlain's zeal and untiring energy which made Birmingham what she is today. What Haussman was to Paris Chamberlain was to Birmingham. He demolished her rookeries, he swept away miles upon miles of tenements but little better than slums, while he constructed broad open streets and gave light and air to masses of the people who had previously to his improvements, but partially enjoyed both these blessings. He did more, he obtained for the people municipal control of both the gas and water supplies and yet he did more, for instead of increasing the taxation of the city his policy has reduced it, while the first cost of both the gas and water concerns has now all been redeemed.

Such were the early days of Joseph Chamberlain as a public man. What his career has been since he entered parliament is to all Canadians a story "as familiar as household words."

Another Tracy

Fresno, Cal., July 28.—In Porterville yesterday James McKinney ran amuck and initiated his performance by shooting out the lights of a saloon, and tried to shoot the cards out of the hands of a man in a card game. That he only wounded the man was due to his poor marksmanship and not to his criminal intentions. He then proceeded to a lively stable and secured a rig at the point of a revolver. A constable, a deputy and several citizens attempted to arrest McKinney, but he opened fire and four of them were more or less seriously wounded. Officers in surrounding counties were notified and a sharp lookout is being kept.

McKinney has a bad record, having some years ago been sent to state prison from Tulare county. Two years ago he killed a man in Bakersfield, but was exonerated. William Lynn, a gambler, whose abdomen and legs were filled with buckshot, has succumbed to his wounds.

McKinney also filled the right arm of George Barrows, a printer, with shot, sent a bullet into the mouth of Deputy Marshal Willis, another into the arm of Deputy Constable Tompkins and a load of shot into the arm of W. B. West. Before leaving town he called at the house of Dave Moshier.

He awakened Moshier and called him to the door. Standing before the door, gun in hand, McKinney exclaimed:

"I've got into a hell of a fight. They came after me, but I whipped them all. I killed three or four of them."

"They have not treated me right. They can send the whole town after me."

"I'll die game. You talk about Tracy, he won't live to be in it with me. They hurt me."

Putting his hand to his leg he squeezed up a handful of blood. He then drove off to Lindsey and is headed for Fresno county, where it is supposed he will make for the mountains.

McKinney, who has a shotgun, rifle and revolvers, is a desperate character, and will not be taken alive. Sheriff Parker and his deputies are in pursuit but no definite information has been received as to the desperado's whereabouts.

James Cockrell, town marshal, who was taken to Lexington, Ky., from Jackson, mortally wounded, has died. He was shot from the court house window at Jackson by an unknown assailant.

Murder and Suicide.

Springfield, Mo., July 27.—Charles Weiley, aged 25, of Norwood, Mo., late last night shot and killed Miss Josephine Sheridan, his former sweetheart, at her home here, and then shot and killed himself.

Miss Sheridan and her sister were entertaining friends in the back yard when Weiley rang the door bell. Miss Sheridan went through the house to the front door and almost immediately four shots were heard. When members of the family reached the spot a minute later, both the girl and Weiley were dead, stretched out side by side on the porch. Miss Sheridan had been shot through the heart and the top of Weiley's head had been torn off.

A Fatal Explosion.

McCurran, I.T., July 27.—Two men were killed and two others seriously burned by an explosion of gas today in one of the San Bois Coal Company's mines, one mile west of here. The dead are Andrew Dazell and James Brown. The names of the two injured men have not been learned. Brown was the son of Bennett Brown of Huntington, Ark., the southern manager of the Central Coal and Coke Company, and was also a nephew of Superintendent Brown of the San Bois mine. The men were engaged in placing timbers to support the roof of the mine at the time.

Mangled Body Found

Platteville, Colo., July 27.—The badly mangled body of an unknown man was found on the Union Pacific track two and one-half miles south of here this afternoon. He was fairly well dressed, and in his pockets were cards bearing the names of George McLean, E. Jones and C. A. Cameron, 1805 Marion street, Little Rock, Ark. He had a small amount of money on his person, some tobacco and a few other articles.

Killed by a Train

Tacoma, July 28.—Mack Shely, a logger in Frame's camp near Orting, was struck by a freight train early this morning and killed. The back of his skull was crushed. The body was discovered by a track walker about 7 o'clock. Shely was about 50 years of age and so far as known had no relatives here. The body was brought to Tacoma and will be kept a few days to see if relatives can be found.

Gold for Export.

New York, July 28.—Gold bars to the amount of \$3,000,000 have been engaged for shipment to Europe this week. The National City Bank will ship \$2,000,000 and Lazard Freres \$1,000,000. It is reported that other engagements are being considered. The City Bank shipment goes to Berlin and that of Lazard Freres to Paris.

"You should be a little more explicit in your statements," said the editor to the new reporter as he glanced over a batch of copy. "Here you say that the Hon. J. Edward Casby, who has been under the care of three physicians during the past ten days, is now out of danger."

"Well, isn't that plain enough?" queried the new pencil pusher.

"Certainly not," replied the autocrat of the sanctum. "How is the uninitiated reader to know whether the Hon. J. Edward is on the high road to recovery or dead and out of reach of the three physicians?"

The leading lady was in tears, and the morning paper lay crumpled at her feet.

"What is the matter?" the manager asked.

"This horrid critic," she sobbed.

"Let me see. Where? What has he said?"

"There," she replied, pointing at the dreadful paragraph. "It says my acting was excellent but that my gown didn't seem to fit me at all. I just know that was written by some spiteful woman."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"I appreciate the honor you do me in asking me to be your wife, Mr. Poorman," said the beautiful summer girl, "but circumstances over which I have no control compel me to decline the honor."

"To what circumstances do you refer?" asked the young man, who seemed to see a faint ray of hope aimed at him from the future.

"To your financial circumstances," replied she of the granite heart, in a tone that the iceman might have envied.

"Why did Col. Ryeman resign as president of the company?" asked a stockholder of the secretary.

"We had voted to water the stock," replied the secretary, "and the colonel declared he'd have nothing to do with anything that had water in it."

Teacher—"How did the Fourth of July originate?"

Tommy—"Why, the fireworks people started it, of course."

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS

Many Hydraulic Plants in Operation

C. W. Macpherson Returns From Big Salmon District—Road is Being Built.

Mr. C. W. Macpherson, who has been engaged in survey work for the government in the Big Salmon district for the past month or two, returned on the Victorian yesterday, having completed his labors in that vicinity. Base lines were run on Summit, Lake and Cottonvea creeks and a number of claims were surveyed on Livingston, Summit and Cottonvea. Mr. Macpherson reports a great deal of activity in the Big Salmon district and prospectors for the most part satisfied with their holdings. Quite a number of claims are producing handsomely and there are several hydraulic plants in operation. Johannsen is working ten men on the block of ground he bought from the government, 1 to 10 below on Livingston. He has a hydraulic plant on the ground, has ground sluiced off a big strip and is just beginning to take out good pay. The indications are excellent. Peters is working the upper and lower halves of discovery on Livingston and is doing well. The Delaware Mining Company is putting in a big hydraulic plant on the twenties above, including a 60-horsepower boiler, several little giants and other machinery. There is also a hydraulic outfit going in on Summit creek, one on Lake and one on Cottonvea. A great many men are prospecting new ground but no new strikes have been reported this season. The high cost of provisions in the Big Salmon country has done much to retard its development, freight from Eureka Landing on the Hootalinqua costing eight cents a pound and a cent and a half from Whitehorse. There are two stores at Livingston village where grub is higher than it is in Dawson. Flour sells at \$8 a sack.

Those interested in the Big Salmon country will be gratified to learn that Engineer Thibodeau has completed his location of the road that is to give them much needed relief, and actual construction work will be begun on it tomorrow. The road extends from Eureka Landing on the Hootalinqua, 22 miles above its mouth, to Livingston village, which is located on 30 below, Livingston creek. It will be 16 miles in length and will be graded for the use of wagons and be a first-class road in every respect. Its completion will greatly facilitate entrance to the mines and reduce the cost of transportation of supplies to but a few cents.

Sentence Commuted.

Washington, D.C., July 28.—The life of Dr. Russell Wilson of Ohio, who was captured with a revolutionist party in Nicaragua, has been saved through the representations of Minister Corea, of that country. A cablegram was received at the state department today from Chester Donaldson, United States consul at Managua, Nicaragua, dated the 26th inst., as follows:

"As a courtesy to the United States and sympathy for the president, the president will commute Russell Wilson's sentence."

Wilson was one of the several Americans who joined a filibustering expedition which landed at Monkey Point, near Bluefields, early in July. Most of the party were captured or killed. Wilson would have been summarily executed but for the interposition of Senor Corea, the Nicaraguan minister here.

It is presumed that the commutation is to imprisonment for a time and then expulsion from Nicaragua.

Portland's Salt War.

Portland, July 28.—It is apparent that Portland jobbers have concluded to take up the fight against the Federal Salt Company. Several meetings of jobbers have been held with in the past few days, but the proceedings have been closely guarded.

That prices on all kinds of salt are being slashed right and left is evident, but quotations are kept secret, so far as the jobbers are concerned, in order, it is said, that the Federal Company shall not know what the other side is doing. If the four cargoes of salt from Europe, which are here arrive a further reduction in price is looked for.

South African Trade

London, July 21.—The trade commission sent out to inquire into the best methods for promoting British trade in South Africa seems much impressed with the great activity of the Americans. In its first report sent home the commission says America will be the greatest menace to British trade, adding that the Americans are making a fine effort to get and hold the market, and are introducing their practice of specialization and concentration with the same results so well exemplified in other parts of the world.

Honors Are Even

Here is a question for the dear little boys and girls of the Third Reader: If it takes 24 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, 68 specials, and two companies of national guardsmen two months and five days to just miss catching one man named Tracy, how long would it have taken the great American republic to have captured De Wet?—Vancouver World.

Not so long, we frow, as it took Great Britain and all her colonies to fail in an attempt to catch the intrepid Boer commander—Skagway Alaskan.

Arrives in Port

San Francisco, July 22.—The long overdue French bark Brenn, upon which there has been some specula-

tion, the rate of insurance reaching 35 per cent, is at last safe in port from Newcastle, England, having arrived with a cargo of 2,975 tons of general merchandise. The Brenn, according to Captain Bretter's report, was off its port for ten days, most of the time in a dense fog. She had previously been delayed by adverse winds.

Wheat for Hay.

North Yakima, Wash., July 22.—A sample of spring wheat from the farm of W. A. Bennett, in the Rattlesnake Mountain country, measures four feet in height. This is not strange except that a few years ago it was not believed that anything could be grown in that country without irrigation. The farmers are prosperous and depend only on the rains to make crops. It is reported that potatoes are maturing nicely. The wheat is cut for hay.

Spinning Mills

London, July 21.—The Westminster Gazette says that the directors of a number of spinning companies in the Ashton and Talbridge districts of Lancashire have been approached by agents of American cotton growers with the view of the sale of the former's properties. Meetings of the shareholders of the concerns affected will be held at an early date to consider the matter.

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