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Thursday, March 1, 1923.

Mr. Fielding's Extraordinary Stand

Hon. W. S. Fielding told the electors of North Essex that he was not a party to the Liberal platform adopted by the convention of 1919 and did not feel himself bound by the fiscal policy then passed. Here are his words in a reply to a criticism of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen for having failed to carry out this platform.

"That is not the policy on which I appealed to the country, and that policy was never endorsed by the Liberal party after it got into power. I never at any time promised to endorse it, although the gentlemen who drew up that platform evidently believed they were acting in the best interests of the country. And yet Mr. Meighen criticizes me for denying any part of it."

This is an extraordinary statement coming from a man with the reputation for honesty and sincerity which Hon. Mr. Fielding bears.

Mr. Fielding was actually the chairman of the resolutions committee of the convention which drafted the tariff plank of the party calling for free trade on some 19 articles and a general all-round reduction of the tariff. If he did not favor this policy, he gave no indication of it to the convention. He did not utter on the floor of the convention a solitary word against the adoption of the platform.

In addition, after this platform had been enthusiastically endorsed by the convention with the rider that "the Liberal party hereby pledges itself to implement by legislation the provisions of this resolution when returned," Mr. Fielding was a candidate for the leadership of the party. He came within a few votes of defeating Hon. Mackenzie King. The convention took it for granted that he was a candidate on the platform which had been accepted by the party.

What is more, Mr. Fielding, in earnest eloquence, which stirred the convention to cheers, told the delegates, according to the official report of the gathering issued by the party, of the need of sincerity in public life and of a party adopting a policy and standing by it. Here are his exact words as they are found on page 160 of the official report of the convention.

"I claim sincerity as a great thing in politics, and so it should be. Politics is not a mere game. Unless there is at the bottom of it a conviction that a man is doing that which he believes to be right, unless there is a conviction that the policy that he has before him is good for the country, then it is a poor, miserable game, carried on for the sake of power."

Now, after having been chairman of the resolutions committee which adopted the fiscal policy of the party, after having run as leader on this platform and after having pleaded for sincerity in public life, Mr. Fielding calmly and coolly tells the electors of North Essex and of the country that he was not a party to the Liberal platform and did not endorse it.

Mr. Fielding's cynicism is beyond understanding. He either indorsed the Liberal platform at that time or else lacked the courage to tell the convention his real views and made a mental reservation as to his own support.

Whatever the reasons, his attitude in 1919 and to-day do not make for high standards in public life. It is in itself argument enough, without going further, why North Essex should repudiate a party which regards so lightly its political promises and pledges.

Favorites in pussy willow soon will spread to more than the so-called fashionable fabric.

Why the Vacancies Are Kept Open

Our local contemporary has suddenly discovered that the postmaster's office at Oil Springs has been vacant for months and it expresses surprise that the post office department should hold open the position so long. It is gently, very gently, chiding the department for its inactivity.

If the advertiser would probe a little deeper into this case and a number of similar instances in Ontario, it would find just why the King Government so thoroughly dislikes the Civil Service Commission and why it is endeavoring to get rid of it.

For the benefit of the advertiser, we might explain that the postmaster at Oil Springs became vacant about a year and a half ago through the death of the previous occupant. The vacancy was duly advertised and three applicants were received from T. C. Ward, James Hille and Mrs. Byron Melvold. Mr. Ward, a disabled veteran, successfully passed the examinations, and according to the law passed by the Union Government instructing the Civil Service Commission in all cases to give the preference to returned men, Mr. Ward was selected by the commission and was notified. Mr. Ward is 27 years of age, married, with one child, and was the only one of the three who was a Liberal worker, and the man the patronage mongers wanted for the post. While the Civil Service Commission can recommend any man the actual appointment is in the hands of the post office department, and Hon. Charles Murphy has coolly held the position open with the hope, apparently, that Mr. Ward will finally withdraw his application, or that the powers of the Civil Service Commission will be curtailed.

If the advertiser wants another example where Hon. Charles Murphy has discriminated against a disabled soldier for political reasons, it might investigate the postmaster's office at Brantford. Here also there was a vacancy over a year. Among the applicants was a returned man, fully qualified, who passed the necessary examinations. He was named for the position by the Civil Service Commission. A local Liberal politician was also an applicant, so the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission has been disregarded and the position held open.

These are only two isolated examples of the manner in which the present Government, and particularly the post office department, is aiming to return to patronage and is actually discriminating against the returned men. It contains the vigorous efforts which are being made to amend the Civil Service Act and to deprive the commission of its present powers.

Honoring Sir Christopher Wren

The two hundredth anniversary of the death of Sir Christopher Wren is being celebrated in England this week. Sir Christopher is perhaps the most distinguished architect that England has produced. The great fire of London in 1666 by its destruction of the Cathedral of St. Paul's, destroyed the leading church of the city. Sir Christopher's unique opportunity. Before the fire occurred he had been asked to prepare plans for rebuilding the cathedral. The building was completely gutted by the fire and Sir Christopher prepared a new plan and the present magnificent structure is entirely his design.

Wren also was employed in rebuilding some 50 burned churches throughout London. He was also a town planner, and prepared a plan for laying out the whole city on a new plan, with a series of wide streets radiating from a central square. Difficulties arising from the various ownerships of the ground retarded the accomplishment of this scheme.

Among Wren's churches the most noteworthy are St. Michael's, Cornhill; St. Bride's, Fleet street, and St. Mary-le-Bow, Chancery lane, the latter remarkable for its graceful spire and St. Stephen's, Walbrook, with a plain exterior but very elaborate and graceful interior. In the design of spires Wren showed much taste and wonderful power of invention. He was also very judicious in the way in which he expended the limited money at his command; he did not fritter it away in an attempt to make the whole building remarkable, but devoted it chiefly to one part or feature, such as a spire or a clock tower of internal decoration. Thus he was in some cases, as in that of St. James', Piacidilly, content to make the exterior of an almost barnlike plainness. The Church of St. Dunstons, the Royal Exchange, the House of Commons, the House of Burgesses, and several Oxford and Cambridge buildings were also all designed by Wren.

Wren is buried under the choir of his beloved St. Paul's, the greatest monument to his genius. On a tablet on the inner north doorway is the well-known epitaph: "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice."

NOTE AND COMMENT

Sterling is looking up to its Par-Atta boy!

All Gaul is, to-day, divided into more than three parts.

Many a queen of hearts links up with a Jack-of-all-trades.

The list of March 1923 is on the way to attaining its majority.

The social climber must be ready to take leaps without looking.

Protection has been promised for Ireland's borders. What about her borders?

Well, this winter has been nuts for the Old Timer . . . and comparisous still are odious.

Cool dealt out on the prescription basis is the latest anomaly in the Eastern States. A black dose!

France continues her hands-off policy in the Ruhr. If she can carry through, well, if she cannot, well?

"British trade improves," according to statement of premier. Would a hearty cheer be out of place?

From one squabble to another evidently is Ireland's blithe way. The Republicans again are hammering away at the property of Free Staters. Castle Forbes is the latest sacrifice.

The Third Column

BELOW THE DIRT

He'd been delivering a load of coal, and a five-ton truck he steered. He wasn't a pretty sight to see with his four days' growth of beard. His clothes were such as a coal man wears, and the fine folks passing by would have scorned the touch of his dirty hands and the look in his weary eyes.

He rattled and banged along the road, sick of his job, no doubt. When in front of his truck, from a hidden spot, a dog and a child dashed out.

And he couldn't stop, so he made one leap from the height of his driver's seat. He caught the child with those dirty hands and swept her from the street.

Over his legs went the heavy wheels, and they picked him up for dead. Then the rich man's wife placed her safe coat as a pillow for his head.

And black as he was, the rich man said: "He shall travel home with me today to dawn on us, then in the name of St. Jules of the Highways let them put sand on the Road of Life!"

The highest good news is how the Charitable Party do propose, or it is proposed for them, that Master Drury lead them, leaving money and don't give two hoots who falls and smashes his kindly disposition in front of our house. And while we know not of the 15,000 households in this city who have "houses by the side of our various roads" are there from the same, but if any of them hope for a better day to dawn on us, then in the name of St. Jules of the Highways let them put sand on the Road of Life!

You may walk in pride in your garments, but you may judge by the things that show. But what's deep in the breast of the man you scorn is something you cannot know.

And you'd kiss the hand of the dirtiest man that ever the world has known.

If to save the life of the child you love he had bravely risked his own.

—Edgar A. Guest.
(Copyright, 1923, by Edgar A. Guest.)

THE INNER EYE

Much that we see leaves no impression upon our consciousness—no line or color or shape or vision vanishes.

But there is much that creeps instantly into the sanctuary of the Inner Eye—and perhaps melts into the mysteries of the soul behind.

We see that for which we most ignore, whether this be a course of beauty, some phase of original thought, or merely some phenomenon of hope.

Wordsworth described "the daffodils flinging up the sunbeams." Our idea of this workaday world, our vision of faith, our assurance of hope, are all in turn flashed to this Inner Eye of ours that it may correctly and methodically record them.

Our outer eye records little. It merely tells us to get out of the way, or to turn to the right or left, or to be sure to see this thing which is on the line or in the public mind.

But our Inner Eye tells us to see those things which in time to come will be food and drink to the soul. Those things which must be like a library under circumstances of loneliness and neglect, and which will be the things to warm the entire spiritual body of life at times when the call creeps in.

Therefore, train the habit of drawing into itself all that is worth while from the beauties of Nature and the minds and hearts of people.

Look at a pansy a hundred times—and every time will give you a richer pleasure of loveliness and mysterious beauty.

The Inner Eye alone is able to contribute to permanence back there in the gallery of the soul.

—By George Matthew Adams.

THE WATCHMAN.
Oh, watchman, tell me of the night!
"The night is dark," the watchman said,
"and many lights chase false de-
light, who should be some and some
be none. When I was young, long years ago,
the springtime burned the midnight oil;
that truths of value they might know,
they counted time as if it were a foe."
He said around the evening lamp
and read of statesman, bard and sage;
they had no vain desire to tramp
the garish streets till morn was near.
The prudent parents stayed at home,
examples for their children's eyes, and
father read a helpful poem, while mull-
ing over their swart files. The house-
hold circle is no more, the doors are
shut, the lights are out, the folks are
gone where autos roar, and wild ex-
traneous dance and shout. Oh, watch-
man, if you speak the truth, we live
in perilous times, I swear; but in my
long vanished youth your granite
spoke as you do now. He was the vil-
lage watchman then, and oft I asked
him of the night, and ruin threatened
glens and me, the times we lived in
were a fright. Oh, watchman, you are
full of pop, this world is all that we
desire, so to your duties blithely hop,
while I go home and pass my time.

—Walt Mason.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTEBOOK.
Fred Fernot in
Scene, the other end of a battlefield.
Genrel, I need a volunteer and I need him now. Who wants to be him?
Fred Fernot.
Me, Genrel, it's a tremendously dangerous mission, I warn you.

Fred Fernot. Don't warn me, what I care?
Genrel. Then carry this message through the enemy lines to Genrel Smith.
Fred Fernot. With pleasure.

Act 2.
Scene, another part of the battlefield.
Ferat sentry. Who goes there? Wow, what a crack on the head! Tell my mother I did cheerfully.

Fred Fernot. I didn't have anything against him personally, but you haff to do things in war you wouldn't do anywhere else.

Owch, I see stars in the cone beam! Fred Fernot. Switch is war.

Fred Fernot. Here's a message for you, Genrel Smith.
Genrel Smith. War?
Fred Fernot. Darn if I don't believe I've went and lost it.

Genrel Smith. Well, it's a good thing for you the war was declared over.
Fred Fernot. I always was lucky.

The End.
—Lee Page.

Canadian Daily Quotation

Who was de man can walk de log
W'en w'ole de de reever shies de
black wit' fog,
An' carry de leegs' load on hee's
back?
Johnnie Corteau!

But w'en he's gettin' hees winter
pat,
De 't'ing 't'ing is kip out de way,
For he's goin' right off on de
baag horrow!
Johnnie Corteau!

The new wine mourneth, the vine
languageless, all the merry-hearted do
sign—Isa. 24:7.

He who is only wise lives in gloom.
—Voltaire.

CHEER.
Let's give a cheer
For Carrie Blings,
She shuts the windows
When she sings.

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RAMBLING AROUND WITH OLD DOC. PEP

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Letters To the Editor

STRAITFORD EXPLOSION.

Editor Free Press: In the Free Press inquiry department the question was asked when the dynamite explosion in Stratford took place. The explosion happened about 10 a. m. on May 5, 1919. This is the correct date, which I remember well, and it is a pity that a few minutes afterwards with the date printed thereon.

ALEX. WILSON.
Stratford, Feb. 24, 1923.

A PRAYER FOR CANADIANS.

Editor Free Press: According to various newspaper reports, Canada leads the world in the export of grain in mineral resources, in liberty and same laws. Canada is a member of the League of Nations, but our neighbor to the south is lacking in these things. In view of the fact that the United States have helped to make us what we are, Canada is willing to join the American union and help our neighbor rise to a higher plane.

A Moscow newspaper published the following item recently: "Having done with spitting the church, the time has now come to destroy. In Soviet Russia there is no place for church reform and the complete complete liberation of the church and religion. We have no need of a Soviet church. We must sweep the church out of our path, for it is a hindrance to progress." Poor Soviet Russia, going down into the pit of atheism, calls for the pity and prayers of all Christians.

While the athletes of Russia are doing their deadly work in the old world and Professor Cousse, the Frenchman, is heaping his auto-suggestion in the new world, the physical and spiritual health of themselves and their neighbors by daily saying a prayer like the following:

Day by day in every way
We're urging forth in faith to pray:
And telling them "Be fair in play."
CLEMENS CANADENSIS.
Kitchener, Feb. 24, 1923.

SAVE THE BUSH LOT.

Editor Free Press: I have read with pleasure and interest your many splendid articles on reforestation which have appeared from time to time, and I suggest that every farmer in the country have a valuable paper to be devoted to the subject until productive results are obtained. Few of us realize how serious the bush problem is and the difficulties surrounding it. The necessity of immediate action has been well pointed out and is apparent, especially in the wood lot which has almost entirely disappeared. While we have men who have given practical demonstration of what can be done in replanting and beautifying their farms, there are few farmers who have the time and money to properly tackle the planting and protection of the bush lot, and the difficulties surrounding it.

Your financial correspondent's suggestions are along the right lines made of replanting and beautifying their farms, there are few farmers who have the time and money to properly tackle the planting and protection of the bush lot, and the difficulties surrounding it.

In another column of your paper I note the question "What influence are