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**THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH**  
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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 28, 1904.

**CANADIANS IN BOSTON SPEAK**

An address signed by fifty Boston citizens of Canadian birth has been issued. It is an appeal "to the Canadian-born voters of Massachusetts." Among the signers are several former New Brunswickers, including Messrs. C. H. McIntyre, Charles S. Skinner and Willard McLeod. Mr. Thomas F. Anderson is also on the list. The signers refer to reciprocity as one of the most important issues in the presidential campaign, and explain that no body of men in Massachusetts "so well understand the true bearings of the movement as those who have lived on both sides of the international line." They speak of reciprocity as a "measure which they believe to be the greatest in New England. They say the complete abolition of customs duties between the two countries, with a common tariff against all the world, is wholly out of the question. "Reciprocal trade," they explain, "must be brought about through an enlargement of the free list, together with a moderate reduction of the tariff on certain articles," chiefly "natural products of the farm, of the forest, of the mine, of the sea, and a limited number of manufactured goods. In view of Canada's tremendous development, we cannot expect her markets to be exploited for the sole benefit of American manufacturers."

Given at this date such a pronouncement will surprise many men in New England who believe they know all about reciprocity. After directing attention to the difference between the Canadian and United States tariffs, they warn the Massachusetts voter that the annexationist spellbinders are both foolish and harmful. "The movement for reciprocity is in great danger of being killed at the hands of its friends. Writers and speakers in this country are constantly advocating reciprocal trade as an entering wedge to annexation and the gradual alienation of the Canadian people from their sovereign flag. It is needless to say that such arguments are not only offensive to the aspirations of the Canadian people, but have absolutely nothing to do with commercial development. It cannot be stated too strongly that the merits of reciprocal trade must rest entirely upon a sound business policy. No matter how beneficent the designs of this country toward Canada may be, we shall greatly increase the prospect for reciprocal trade by confining ourselves strictly to the industrial and commercial features of the question."

They say reciprocity cannot be confined to non-competitive products. They favor "a rational measure of reciprocal trade either by concurrent legislation or some other suitable method," and they "believe that it is the imperative duty of American citizens of Canadian extraction to use every means within their power for the promotion of sane and friendly relations between these two progressive nations of the North American continent."

These gentlemen talk sensibly, and their knowledge of Canadian sentiment would be valuable to New England voters and politicians if they would be guided by it. But New England is by no means a promising pupil in respect of this question. And if New England has begun to learn the rest of the United States has not. A campaign of education extending over some years will be necessary before the United States will be ready to make offers worth considering. And during those years much may happen in Canada and the Empire. One of the gentlemen who signs the address quoted above was recently in Canada, and while there he expressed the opinion that our neighbors should be allowed—as he put it—"to stew in their own grease for a while." That is apparently the disposition of both political parties in Canada at present.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS**

A date for the election to fill the seats in the local legislature vacated by Hon. Messrs. Dunn and McKeown has not yet been fixed. The report that these elections are to be brought on at once is no doubt due to the fact that steps are being taken to call a convention of local government supporters in St. John county for the selection of a candidate. In this county this year selection by a government convention is practically equivalent to election. Several names have been mentioned, but until a convention is held no one can say with certainty who will be the candidate. Mr. Agar is, and has been for some time, in the field. The vote he polled last time was not impressive, and there is reason to believe the government is as strong or stronger than it was at the time of the general contest.

In the city, where no steps have yet been taken by either party to select candidates, Messrs. T. H. Estabrooks, A. O. Skinner and Alderman Bullock are spoken of as possible government candidates. All are strong men, well known and well liked in business and other circles, and well fitted to represent the constituency. It is intimated by an opposition newspaper that Mayor White or Mr. John E. Wilson is to be a candidate, or that both may run if there is another vacancy. Mr. Wilson ran well on the last occasion, and is said to be willing to sacrifice himself once more. The Mayor—well, there is his record as Mayor. The government would doubtless cheer with pleasure of his nomination.

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND DIVORCE**

The convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States which is to be held in Boston next week, has attracted several clergymen from these provinces, and Canadian interest in the meeting will be greater than usual because of the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who will be the most conspicuous figure in attendance. His presence excites considerable expectation, and any message he may deliver to the church in the United States will be heard and read with deep attention.

There is some expectation that the convention will reach an important decision in regard to the attitude of the Episcopal church toward persons who have been divorced, and in some quarters it is predicted that the canons will be so amended as to prevent any Episcopal clergyman from performing a marriage in which one of the contracting parties has a husband or wife living, no matter what circumstances may have led to the separation.

The Episcopal church at present permits its clergy to recognize only the "innocent party to a divorce" where the offence charged has been marital infidelity, and many believe the prevailing rule is severe enough. Doubtless there are cases in which injustice would be done by increasing the severity of the church's ruling in this matter, but it is held by some that the judgment of a civil court as to the innocence of any person involved in a divorce trial may be based upon inconclusive evidence. They say a broad principle of action is required, following which the church may brand divorce as an evil in regard to which there should be no compromise, and may decide that while a wife or husband is living the other contracting party may not marry again. Divorces have become so common in the United States, and the law in some states is so elastic, that the attitude of all churches toward the evil is a matter of great moment. The Churchman speaks out plainly on the question: "The attitude of American churches is, we believe, more than any other one influence responsible for such a divorce record."

Recognizing divorce and encouraging marriages for the one exception, they are not to be confined to divorce and remarriage to this one exception even in their own organizations." And the Episcopal church is more strict than some others.

**THE EXHIBITION**

Some of the Exhibition Association directors believe it would be wise to have another fair next year. These gentlemen feel that a lapse of two years between exhibitions makes success more difficult of achievement. The work of organization is greater after such an interval, and the work done this year would advertise a fair for 1905 much more than it would advertise one for 1906. The yearly plan, it is thought, enables the managers to get a better grip upon the high class of business exhibitors and exhibitors. It is suggested, too, that while Western merchants and manufacturers have shown much interest in our exhibition, something more is needed to enlist the active interest and co-operation of more leading firms right here in St. John and throughout the province. This will be a matter for consideration by the directors when they come to analyze the results of last week's show and shape their course for the future. The directors undertake, without remuneration, an immense amount of work and no little responsibility. They need and should receive the greatest possible measure of local co-operation.

The receipts from attendance, it is now expected, will be about equal to those of two years ago. But for several very cold days the number of visitors would have been much larger. More money was paid out in prize fees this year than previously, and the percentage of the amusement hall receipts received by the Association was much smaller than in 1902. Whether the directors could afford to be so generous another year is a matter upon which they will have more light when this year's books are balanced. The amusement hall was not large enough to contain all who wished to see the amusement features, a fact which suggests more space and a different amusement programme another year.

As long as the Association is willing to devote eighty per cent. of the amusement hall receipts, and some incidentals, to pay for the attractions, there should be no difficulty in booking amusements which are first class throughout and which have the added charm of novelty.

The Fredericton Gleaner complains that St. John pursues a selfish policy. This complaint is not new from that quarter. It is unfounded. The Gleaner says:—

"We are inclined to the opinion that if St. John would patronize and otherwise assist exhibitions in other parts of the province a better feeling would prevail, and the assistance which it would receive in turn from the outside would certainly ensure the success of its enterprise. The Chatham, the Sussex, the Woodstock and the Fredericton exhibitions have been practically ignored by St. John for years, yet in each of these instances the show has done more to promote the interests of agriculture—and it is to promote these interests that the government grant is given—than any exhibition yet held in St. John. It will pay St. John better to encourage the enterprise of others than to continue its efforts to belittle."

St. John, so far as The Telegraph knows, has encouraged the exhibitions in other provincial cities and has been careful not to take any course which might interfere with their success. That sister enterprises have been belittled here is not a fact, and the Gleaner cannot create prejudice against the St. John fair by pursuing any such policy as it appears to contemplate.

**RUSSIAN THREATS**

St. Petersburg sends out news that is, or is intended to be, very terrible. At last Russia has decided to crush Japan. The world heard some such announcement eight months ago. More guns and more generals, and some 300,000 or 400,000 more men are to be "rushed" to the front. The war will not hear of intervention. The prestige of Russia must be restored. Carthage must be destroyed. So runs the tale.

One wonders if official Russia is only now making up its mind that Japan must be beaten. The fact seems to be that all the military strength which Russia could bring to bear in Manchuria by means of her single-track railroad has been sent forward as fast as possible. Fresh determination at St. Petersburg, a new realization of the extent of the work to be done and the peril to be met, will not increase materially the carrying capacity of the only line of communication with the theatre of war. The sea is Japan's. Russia can mobilize 400,000 more men and equip them, though

to what extent she can meet the demands for artillery is not clear. But the winter is coming, and even were there open weather recent experience has shown that the railroad cannot deliver more than 1,000 a day at Harbin. Such, at least, is the estimate of writers who have marched with the Russians in Manchuria. So while the Russian intentions are of world-shaking dimensions, the Russian performances are likely to be much less impressive, this year at least.

Viceroy Alexieff, it is intimated at St. Petersburg, is to be the supreme military chief in Manchuria, commanding all the armies, at the head of one of which General Kuropatkin will remain. Much has been said of friction between these two men. Alexieff represents the bureaucracy. He was to a great extent responsible for the war and for Russian unpreparedness at its outset. What he can do with 700,000 or 800,000 men remains to be seen. But when can Russia place such a force in Manchuria?

**AT SIXES AND SEVENS**

One of the Canadians who signed the reciprocity appeal issued last week, writes to The Telegraph that the signers are attempting some missionary work, the result of which remains to be seen. Missionary work in regard to this question is certainly much needed in New England. Professor Henry Loomis Nelson, who writes political articles for the Boston Herald, has just printed the following:— "No one really favors reciprocity with Canada who does not favor entirely taking down the bars on both sides of the border line. Reciprocity with Canada can only be had if there is established between the Dominion and ourselves the same freedom of trade which exists between the several States."

The Canadians who addressed the Massachusetts voters expressly said that the scheme Professor Nelson proposes is utterly impracticable. It would involve a common tariff. That is out of the question. The reciprocity advocates in New England are at sixes and sevens.

**THERE IT IS DIFFERENT**

At present Toronto is deriving almost \$1,000 per day as rental for her street railway franchise. The city's percentage of gross receipts will for 1904 exceed \$300,000, and this money goes into the general funds, reducing the amount to be collected by taxation. The net profit of the company last year was \$629,183. The city this year will get half as much. Toronto has as cheap fares and as liberal a transfer system as any city in America, with \$1,000 per day extra earned by the franchise.—Toronto Star.

And in Toronto the company gives a first class service. The city makes the company pay over a percentage of its gross earnings as rental for a most valuable franchise which is the property of the municipality. Cheap tickets are issued during the rush hours, not to workingmen only, but to all who care to use them. Tickets sold eight for twenty-five cents are used in the morning and evening. The company makes money, and pays a fair amount of it into the city treasury.

The St. John company makes money by the use of the streets, but it pays no part of its earnings into the city treasury, and it does not even run cars enough to carry the people. It has been suggested that the directors are responsible for this mismanagement. At least one of these gentlemen has said he has nothing to do with the management of the road. It appears, therefore, that there are directors who do not direct. They can at least resign.

**NOTE AND COMMENT.**

A poor boy in Pennsylvania found a satchel containing \$16,000 one day last week. It had been lost by the paymaster of a steel plant who was on his way to the manufactory in an automobile. He gave the boy thirty-five cents. Careless in some respects, the loser was careful in others. A man was killed on one of the railroads in New Brunswick not long ago. A merchant who had sold him a pair of shoes on credit a few days before the accident succeeded in recovering them from among the dead man's effects. He was much annoyed upon finding that one of the shoes had been torn almost to pieces. He has not yet sued the railroad.

"The fact is that the Dominion, with no coinage system of its own except for subsidiary currency, using the United States gold dollar as the standard unit and making the gold sovereign legal tender at \$4.86, maintains the best banking system in the world," says the New York Journal of Commerce. "The volume of notes was a little more than \$10 per capita at the time of the last statement. That of our National banks is about sixty per cent. of their capital and little more than five dollars per head of population, but it does not at all serve the only purpose for which it ought to exist, that of furnishing an element in the currency based upon bank credit and therefore constantly adjusted by the influence of supply and demand to all the varying needs of business. In this respect Canada has a great advantage over the United States, and is much less subject to financial danger. One of the worst perils in time of stress is a defective banking system."

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