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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1912.

THE TELEGRAPH AND MR. COPP.

The Telegraph whines because of the criticisms of Mr. Copp's methods during the last session of the Legislature. Considering the difficulties the Liberal party experienced in getting anyone to take a position so utterly hopeless as that of Leader of the Opposition, it is not surprising that it should feel affronted when the truth is told about Mr. Copp. Notwithstanding his direct connection with the Central Railway frauds perpetrated by the Liberal party, Mr. Copp had the assurance, when before the Accounts Committee, a few days ago, to make the assertion that he desired those guilty of fraud punished, if there had been any fraud. This was a most extraordinary statement to come from a man in the position of Mr. Copp. It was a hypocritical statement and made with the intention of developing the people of the Province. If Mr. Copp is really desirous of getting at the actual truth regarding the boudling operations of the Central Railway he will first make restitution of that \$14,25 which is charged against him in the accounts of the company.

It is difficult to appreciate the assertions of the Telegraph as they lack honesty, sincerity and truthfulness whenever provincial affairs are touched upon. The Government came before the House and the people with a policy, a policy which the people itself has been compelled, on many more than one occasion to admit, would be of the greatest benefit to the future development of the country. Every obstruction that Mr. Copp and his friends could devise was laid in the path of the Government to prevent the carrying out of that policy. Instead, for instance, of attempting to strengthen the hands of the Government on the Valley Railway question, every possible device was resorted to to delay the construction of the railway. It was purely and simply factious opposition, the work of men of small calibre and incapable themselves of constructing anything.

The Government has no fault to find either with Mr. Copp or his tactics, but the people of the country cannot help but be amused at the oracular manner of the Leader of the Opposition and his supporters in the House. Their chief asset was wind and a very poor quality of wind at that. Their course during the session instead of strengthening their cause weakened it and when the elections are over the Opposition will be called upon to nominate a new leader and the Telegraph to swallow a very large dish of soap. The people of the country demand honest and progressive government. They have had such a Government for the past four years and when the time comes will speak in the same voice as the County of York did a year ago.

THE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE WEST INDIES.

It is instructive to observe the different opinions expressed in the United States on the preferential agreement between Canada and the West Indies. Taking one of the industries most concerned, we find the Millers' National Federation in session at Chicago making a vigorous protest at the preferential duties on flour. A committee has been appointed to appeal to the State Department at Washington to take action seeking to prevent the approval of the agreement. A report was read at this convention setting forth that the preferential duty would materially decrease the export sales of United States flour in the West Indies. This action of the federation follows the natural and common sense view taken by business interests in the United States whose pockets may, and probably will, be affected.

By way of contrast the New York Times which has evidently a vivid recollection of the fate of the Reciprocity Agreement with Canada, sneers at the idea that trade should follow the flag, declares that it is "envy of the Americanized West Indies" which has driven the other islands to make the treaty, refers to them as "economic derelicts," and in general assumes an air of lofty indifference. The comments of the Times are an excellent sample of "sour grapes."

After referring to the Dominion having "signed an agreement of Reciprocity with the British West Indies," it proceeds:

"More exactly, the agreement is signed only with those islands which will make a bargain with Canada, but the lachstring is left out of those other islands which now are not responsive. The reason for the exception indicates the interest of the United States in this family arrangement. Both Canada and the British Islands of the Caribbean fear retaliation by the United States, and some fear it so much that they abstain until they remark the fate of the bold bargainers who have reached an agreement. The abstention of Jamaica is more significant than either the abstention or the co-operation of all the others. Jamaica's population is half that of all the Antilles, and its trade is richer, in even larger proportion. But the interests of Jamaica are rather with the United States than with Canada, so much so that it trades with us rather than with Canadians, despite exceptional telegraph and steamship facilities for trading with Canada. Even so, Jamaica is doing better without the Dominion Reciprocity arrangement than it could do with it. So would the other islands if they had equally good communications with the United States. The improvement of the communications is the objective of the agreement even more than the improvement of trade. The basis of the bargain is that an artificial stimulation of steamship and telegraph communications may result in an equally artificial stimulation of trade.

"Americans will rather smile than rage at an arrangement so natural and creditable to the West Indies. Americans also have thought that trade can be built on a foundation of making it expensive for themselves and difficult for their customers. We have learned better, and so will the Canadians. As the result of our enlightenment we offered them admission to a trade which aggregates more than Canada's total trade across oceans, including the inconsiderable West Indies, the Mother Country itself, and the rest of the world. That Canada should reject an overture so considerably in itself, and so fraught with prospects of future enlargement, and that Canada should then make such frantic attempts to recoup its loss, is cause only for marvel here. If there is cause for any resentment it is only by Canadians against those statesmen who involved Canada in such inconsistencies, and who undertake to reconcile them by the same discredited arguments as they used against Reciprocity with the United States. Trade with the United States was treason to the Empire, and therefore it was necessary to put away the profits which merely awaited harvesting. Now the same sort of humbug—meaning no offence—is being preached

to entice the West Indies into an inferior trade arrangement. At the love feast which marked the climax of the bargain, Mr. Read, the delegate from British Guiana, said West Indians naturally would prefer to buy from their kinsmen than from those under foreign flags.

"Then they must be different from either the Canadians or the residents of the British Isles. Canadians prefer to trade with their neighbors on this continent rather than with their Motherland, just as their brethren across the ocean prefer to trade wherever they find their profit, thinking no more of national boundaries than of religious faiths. Neither race nor religion taints an honest profit. The Dominion Government, smarting from its discipline because it stands between Canadians and a natural business, sees that its course is provocative of more disloyalty than the bargain which they defeated, and which approaches ratification with every day which passes.

"The Dominion knows that the arrangement just concluded will become futile just as soon as we make up our minds to offer the West Indies a better bargain. There is not an island in the Caribbean which is not envious of the prosperity which we have bestowed upon Porto Rico and Cuba, and which would not take the same thing for themselves. And their consciences might be easy in so doing. Trade follows profit, and profit keeps flags flying among honest nations. It is envy of the Americanized West Indies which drives the other islands into an arrangement with Canada because they think none possible with the United States. The islands are economic derelicts unless they attach themselves to their natural commercial sphere. Only their experience with our tariff 'big stick' prevents their doing so. This clearly appears from this passage in the official announcement of the arrangement: 'The agreement is between Canada and the interested colonies alone, and leaves both with complete liberty to adjust their tariffs as respects all other countries.'

"The gentlemen at Washington who have been thinking of retaliation would do well to take notice that this trade can be clubbed away, but that it is anxious to be allowed to flow in its natural channel."

Looking at the recent trend of events, Canadians who believe in the ultimate establishment of Imperial Preference can afford to smile at the vapors of the Times. President Taft was under no delusion when he warned the people of the United States that their commercial development was threatened by an Imperial commercial band stretching from England around the world to England again. The trade agreement between Canada and the West Indies is a step in this direction and an event of the highest Imperial significance. Between a widely separated dependencies of the British crown a plan of preferential trade has been worked out which contains all the elements of the greater Imperial idea, which slowly but surely is pursuing its course. Canada has taken the lead, being a tariff country, and has been able to offer the West Indies certain advantages. That step accomplished is to be followed by others in the same direction. Hon. George E. Foster, who has brought his labors of twenty years ago for reciprocal relations with the West Indies to an end, has concluded to leave for Australia at an early date to negotiate a similar agreement. The linking up in trade agreements, one after the other of the Sister Nations and territories of the Empire cannot fail to hasten the final and greater step which will unite the Motherland by an Imperial commercial band with her Dominions Overseas.

IMPROVING THE ROADS.

The Liberal Opposition in the Local House had a good deal to say during the last session on the condition of the roads of the Province. They evinced a desire from the first day of the session to the last to claim that there had been no improvement in the roads under the present Administration, but they had not a word to say when the Senate of Canada threw out the Good Roads Bill of the Borden Government. The Senate of Canada, like the local Opposition, is chiefly Liberal in its make-up, and its policy is to prevent the Borden Government from carrying out its progressive good roads policy. The members of that ancient body would sooner make a political point by preventing a Conservative Government from carrying out a policy that would be of incalculable value to the people of Canada.

There has seldom before been such a display of blind partisanship in this country as that which inspired the opposition to the Good Roads policy of the Government at Ottawa. Had it not been for the action of the Liberal Senate this Province would have had at its disposal the magnificent sum of \$50,000 towards the construction of permanent highways, a sum sufficient to construct twenty miles of first-class road. But the policy of the Senate, as well as that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was to prevent the people from obtaining a Dominion grant for the improvement of the roads.

The Good Roads question is one which should be removed from politics. It has no place there. Good roads are a necessity for the development of any country. They not only make driving, whether behind a horse or in an automobile, more agreeable, but they have an economic value to the farmers of the country. The far greater lessens the cost of marketing their crops. This fact alone should have guided the Senate to a different course than they pursued at the demand of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The present Administration at Fredericton, by an honest collection of the revenues of the country have been enabled to spend a much greater sum of money than their predecessors on the roads and bridges of the country. With the assistance proposed from Ottawa there could immediately have entered upon a policy of permanent highways somewhat similar to that under which small sum at the disposal of the Provincial Government at the present time is required for the repairing of ordinary roads and bridges. Many improvements have been introduced into this service under Chief Commissioner Morrisey. The roads and bridges are in a better condition than they ever were before, but if we are to have permanent roads assistance must come from the Federal Government. This was what Mr. Borden proposed and what the Liberal Senate prevented from being done.

The Loyalist Dramatic Club of this city is placed fifth by the judges in the competition for the Earl Grey trophy. As a first attempt the local players have no reason to be discouraged. They take precedence of three competitors, including both the clubs which represented Montreal.

Current Comment

(Montreal Herald.)
Mr. Hays' monument is almost built already. It will reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific, every inch of it the memorial of his power to plan and to achieve the great thing.

(Dallas News.)
Our idea of a happy marriage is where the husband always wants to kiss the wife when he leaves home, and the wife wants to kiss the husband when he comes back.

(Hamilton Herald.)
"I got into the boat merely for safety," explained J. Bruce Ismay, the steamship proprietor. There was never a more superfluous explanation.

JUDGES' AWARD FOR DRAMATIC TROPHY

Loyalist Dramatic Club Placed Fifth in Competition - Incidents of the Trip - Advantages of Truthful Criticism.

The following telegram from F. C. T. O'Hara, one of the judges in the Earl Grey Dramatic Trophy, competition held in Ottawa last week announcing the full award was received yesterday:

Ottawa, April 22.
Loyalist Dramatic Club
St. John, N. B.
The order of merit is as follows:
1. Strollers' Dramatic Club of Winnipeg.
2. London Dramatic Club.
3. Walters' Dramatic Company, Ottawa.
4. Edmonton Dramatic Club.
5. Loyalist Dramatic Club, St. John, N. B.
6. Pridmore Company, Kingston, Ont.
7. The Montreal Theatricals.
Ronayne Amateur Players Montreal.
Mrs. Walters of the Ottawa club and Miss Dorothy Castle of the Winnipeg Striders tied for the individual prize for ladies, a gold bracelet given by Miss Margaret Anglin. A second bracelet will be given. Mr. Nicholson of Winnipeg wins the silver ring. F. C. T. O'Hara.

By R. E. Walker.

The interest which has been shown in the visit of the Loyalist Dramatic Club to Ottawa to present "The Servant in the House" in the Earl Grey Dramatic Trophy competition, has been a most gratifying one. The club has been the recipient of the pleasant duty of giving a short account of our adventures and experiences. And there is a further reason. As members of the club we all feel that a report should be submitted, in view of the fact that it was only the kindly cooperation of many of the citizens of St. John in contributing to the expenses that made the trip possible.

This is the sixth year of the trophy competitions. The competition open to all the dramatic clubs in the Dominion was founded by Earl Grey in 1906. The Province of New Brunswick had never been represented. The success which attended local performances of the club encouraged the club to enter. While we were not successful in winning the trophy, we have no cause to regret the trip. It proved to be a most profitable one. We were brought in touch with players from many other parts of the Dominion to our mutual advantage. It was a most interesting experience. If our friends, the critics, are to be believed, that New Brunswick is prepared to hold her own with the best of them in the study of dramatic art as in other and more mundane matters.

The little company, which left St. John on Wednesday, consisted of the following playing members of the club—Mrs. Frances C. McCaskill, Miss Marjorie Kait, Fred C. Macneil, J. L. Robertson, Frank J. Corr, A. Gordon Rennie and R. E. Walker. Mrs. L. B. Knight and Mrs. F. C. Macneil accompanied the party. George T. Polly acted as business manager. Rooms were secured at the New Russell Hotel, which has a subway to the theatre. As the club had chosen the first performance on Friday evening, ample time was given after their arrival on Tuesday to make the preliminary arrangements.

Unforeseen Expenses.

It is a rule in these competitions, and a source of expense to visiting clubs, that what is on hand in scenery and furnishings in the theatre can be used, but beyond that everything has to be paid for. One club, I think the winners of the competition, spent \$38 in hiring furniture alone; others paid lesser amounts. All rehearsals have also to be paid for by the individual clubs. The proceeds of the performance are devoted to the hire of the theatre, the payment of the orchestra, etc., and the expenses, if any, of the judges. In the musical and dramatic competitions, it is difficult to see how those expenses can be avoided unless the city in which the competition is held make a small grant for the purpose. In the case of the Loyalist club, the expenses of this kind are not welcomed by visiting clubs.

The stage at the Russell theatre was by previous arrangement, at our disposal on Friday afternoon. A gothic setting, which proved very effective for the interior of the country vicarage, which remains unchanged throughout the play. A handsome suite of fumed oak furniture, brass ornaments, candles and spring flowers in vases completed the scene. A final rehearsal left the company ready for the evening performance. At 8 o'clock a flash light picture of the cast was taken on the stage. Twenty minutes later the curtain rose. The National Anthem announced that His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Princess Patricia with their suite had taken their seats in the royal box. The curtain went up before a large and fashionable audience.

The play and the players are well known in St. John and details of the performance are unnecessary. It is sufficient to say that the five acts of the play went without a hitch. Curtain calls came with each intermission and bouquets were presented to the ladies in the cast. The applause which greeted the impressive scenes in this play coming as it did from a critical and unknown audience, encourage the belief that the efforts of the company were appreciated. Before leaving Ottawa the members of the company were entertained at the Rialto Club by Hon. J. D. Hays who also attended the performance.

In an otherwise favorable notice of the play, the Ottawa Citizen makes the following criticism: "J. L. Robertson, as the vicar, for some reason or other, had not enough strength of voice to get his lines across the footlights." While this is an exaggerated statement, it is nevertheless true that Mr. Robertson was suffering from partial loss of voice and we all realized, none more so than Mr. Robertson himself, that this would tell against our chances in the competition. If I offered any criticism of our performance, it would be on similar lines, that several of us, myself included, failed at

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times to make our voices carry to the necessary extent. In the order of merit, the club takes fifth place with eight dramatic organizations competing. For a first attempt with an extremely difficult play which would test the capabilities of a first class professional company, we should have no reason to be dissatisfied with the verdict. The judges in the dramatic competition, in the regrettable absence of Sir John Hare through illness, were Lt. Col. H. C. Lowther, chairman of the executive committee, E. Norman Smith, and P. C. T. O'Hara, deputy minister of trade and commerce.

From our point of view as a club, having taken part in the Dominion competition, the most instructive feature of this annual event is yet to come. A detailed and trenchant criticism, merciless in its exposure of faults but generous when praise is deserved, is published each year in the judges' report. As an unbiased opinion, this report is of particular value to amateurs who take part in the competition. It is something the average amateur rarely gets. It is too much to say that a straight criticism of an amateur dramatic performance would be regarded by many budding histrions these days, as an insult. But by that route comes improvement.

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Mayor Frink's Subscription List
The mayor's fund for the relief of the Titanic sufferers was augmented yesterday by the sum of \$21.24 received from the Seamen's Mission Society. Four dollars was contributed by the members of James Straton's household, including Mr. and Mrs. Straton, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Fowler; Patricia Fowler, James Currie, Mrs. Grant and J. Glass.

Most Anything

To wear a wig is to advertise one's baldness.
The old hen had hatched out a brood of ducklings, and as they took to the water she said: "My, my how each new generation progresses."

There is always a market for flattery, and a good price for those who men it sometimes.

Men sometimes love us for our failings, but it is a bad thing when we ourselves get proud of them.

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