

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1912.

IS MR. HAZEN AN ENEMY?

The attack made upon Mr. Hazen by the Telegraph and Times regarding the book issued under his authority by the Department of Marine and Fisheries for distribution at the 12th Congress of the Permanent Association of Navigation Congresses, has fallen very flat. These two interesting but somewhat fantastic journals seem to exist for the sole purpose of maligning and misrepresenting Mr. Hazen and those who sympathize with his political views. Hatred of Mr. Hazen is one of the canons of the faith of those attached to the Telegraph and the Times, and they are prepared to go to any length to do him an injury.

After a month of misrepresentation of Mr. Hazen and Mr. Flemming the Telegraph and Times were given an answer by the people of New Brunswick that would have astonished anyone whose sense of decency had not been altogether lost. That both these so-called Liberal organs are dead to any sense of fair play was plainly in evidence in the latter partisan attack on Mr. Hazen, made under cover of the hypocritical remark by the Times "There is no politics in this."

Mr. Hazen has on every occasion in his power stood by St. John and has been its best friend. In 1895 he went so far as to place his resignation as a member in the hands of Mr. Foster unless the subsidy promised by the Government was awarded. Action was immediately taken by Mr. Hazen St. John before long became the great Winter Port of Canada.

While Premier of the Province he lost no opportunity of furthering the interests of St. John. The construction of the Valley Railway, which will do more to build up the trade of this city than all the other railways here before built in the Province, was brought about by Mr. Hazen and Mr. Flemming. His successor in the Premier's ship, it was Mr. Hazen who took up the Courtenay Bay project after Mr. Pugsley had failed to get the consent of the Laurier Government to sign the contract, and secured the signature of the Borden Government, with the result the work has now been commenced.

For weeks after the change of Government at Ottawa, both the Telegraph and Times by insinuation and innuendo tried to make it appear that Mr. Hazen would not succeed in gaining the consent of the other members of the Cabinet to the Courtenay Bay project. Just before the contract was accepted the Telegraph tried to make it appear that there were obstacles in the way of Mr. Hazen's success. A day or two later it was forced to admit that the Governor General in Council had given his assent to the agreement. A few days later the contract was signed.

It is the acme of absurdity for anyone to claim that Mr. Hazen has "betrayed St. John." Mr. Hazen is no traitor to the interests of this city whatever may be said of others who broke a solemn pledge to start work on Courtenay Bay and then did nothing for three years. Mr. Hazen made no pledge concerning Courtenay Bay; yet it was by his act and through his influence, that the harbor works are now in progress.

It would be interesting to know the moving cause of the indignation of the Telegraph and Times in connection with the publication concerning which they complained. The book was favorably reviewed by the Globe some time ago and had been in the offices of the Telegraph and Times for some weeks before the discovery that "St. John is betrayed" was made. The suggestion that the Board of Trade should take up the matter and deal with it is also somewhat peculiar. The Board of Trade is, or ought to be, a purely non-partisan body, but some things have been done in the name of the Board of Trade recently, to all appearance at the suggestion of one of its officials, that should cause the Board to investigate its own interior workings, and ascertain whether or not the sole inspiration is the benefit of St. John.

No one expects a Board of Trade to accept the decisions of any Government as always in the interests of one community, and it is quite legitimate and in the best interests of a city that a Board of Trade should sometimes make a strong fight for the rights of the citizens. But, on the other hand, it is not always compatible with the best interests of the community that there should be the slightest suspicion that partisanship is at the bottom of the criticisms.

St. John has been well treated by governments. The average citizen is quite well satisfied with what the present Government is doing for this community, and would be inclined to resent any purely partisan criticism. It is very unlikely that the Board of Trade will assist the Telegraph and Times in their unjustifiable attack on Mr. Hazen. That this is what both these newspapers had in view is clear from the suggestion they made. The attack on Mr. Hazen is a matter of this kind and cannot be too severely condemned. It is not in the best interests of the community, nor helpful to the general welfare.

"FREE TRADE" TAXATION.

The smallest of the Asquith Government's majority in defeating a motion moved by the Unionists in Parliament, on Monday night, to reduce the duty on tea grown in British territory, is not without its significance. It is at least an indication that many of the supporters of this "free trade" Government are weakening in their objections to Imperial Preference. The division was taken on an Opposition motion to reduce the duty on tea from 5 pence to 4 pence a pound, thus giving the British possessions a preference of a penny a pound against the rest of the world. The vote was 199 to 177; the Government escaping defeat by the narrow majority of 22.

The British possessions which would chiefly be benefited by this preference are India and Ceylon. Taking the case of India, in the last annual trade returns it is stated that the imports of tea into Great Britain were valued at \$26,231,000. A remission of a penny a pound in the tea duty would have given this Eastern Empire within the Empire a corresponding advantage in the British market against China and other foreign tea-growing countries. There would, it is true, have been a loss of revenue to the British treasury, but this is one of the cases in which the revenue is provided by the British consumer.

One of the most striking features of this system of "free trade" as it is in England, lies in the fact that nearly \$10,000,000 in revenue is raised annually by an import tax on such food necessities as tea, sugar, coffee, cocoa, eggs, raisins, etc. Not one of these articles

is grown in Great Britain. There is no home competition to meet and, consequently, in every instance the consumer pays the bills. Importers are able to add the duty to the price and the consumer when he buys is obliged to pay it or go without.

In the United States, to take as an example a country which removes all necessity for this tax. It enables the Government to admit such important articles of food as tea, coffee and cocoa free from taxation. The removal of a penny from this tax on tea would have given a stimulus to India's trade with the Mother Country and would have directly benefited the British consumer.

The policy of Tariff Reform, which is now gaining ground rapidly in England, proposes to take off a large proportion of the present tax on imported tea, sugar and other such necessities which are not grown in the country, and to place a tax instead on imported corn, meat and dairy products which compete with the products of the home farmer. This tax would be paid, in whole or in part, by the foreign producer rather than lose the British market. The change would, obviously, lighten the present heavy taxation on articles not produced in the country. The principle of placing small taxes on such foreign imports as are produced in Great Britain is economically sound. There is at once competition between a taxed and an untaxed supply which has the direct result of keeping down prices. In other words, the foreign producer will be compelled to pay these taxes himself if he wants to sell his goods in the British Market.

As regards India's position with reference to Imperial Preference there is little doubt the Government of the country would be prepared to do its share. A statement by Lord Curzon, an ex-Viceroy of India, in a speech in the House of Lords on the subject of an Imperial Conference confirms this view. "I believe," said Lord Curzon, "that India, if I have any right to speak on her behalf, will gladly join in a conference such as I have spoken of, and that she would welcome any practical scheme of fiscal reform embracing preferential tariffs within the Empire, because she is already in favor of the main principles which underlie that reform, and because she has already put into practical operation some of the most effective means of carrying these principles into effect." In the case of Imperial Preference it is only the "Free Trade" Asquith Government which lags behind.

WHY TRUTH PREVAILED.

It has always been a moot question as to how far a party newspaper should go in espousing the cause of its political friends. Newspaper men who respect their calling are usually truthful and prefer to deal with facts rather than fiction. Whatever deductions or conclusions they may draw from the facts, it is in carrying them out to deliberately falsify and publish untrue statements in order to base an argument. Yet this was the method adopted by the Telegraph and Times in the recent election.

That a deliberate attempt was made to deceive the people regarding the true financial position of the Province is plainly in evidence in almost every issue of both papers from the opening to the close of the campaign.

It is important that the people should know the actual financial position of the Province, because the future of the Province largely depends on maintaining the Provincial credit. Heedless and untruthful statements of the increase in the permanent debt are to be discouraged, no matter from what source they emanate or what their purpose may be. When that purpose is solely to bolster up the interests of a political party it should be resented most emphatically.

The Telegraph and Times attacked the credit of the Province day after day by asserting that the present Government had increased the permanent debt over a million dollars in four years. This statement was absolutely false. It was pointed out that it was false, but these papers had sunk to such a depth of political degradation that no retraction was ever made.

This was not the only instance of misrepresentation and falsehood in which the Telegraph and Times were guilty. There were dozens of other instances but none quite so baneful as the one affecting the credit of the Province. Mr. Pugsley's organs always asserted that the Province must have been at a mighty low ebb at the start. Both the Telegraph and Times stated at the opening of the campaign that Mr. Copp would be the next Premier. Mr. Copp was rejected by his own constituency.

It is to be hoped that when the next general election comes around that the Telegraph and Times will have learned through their condemnation by the popular vote that the large majority of the people like decency even in political campaigns and that truth and honesty are much more likely to prevail than misrepresentation and falsehood backed only by the nearest assertion.

The stinging rebuke the Telegraph and Times have received at the hands of the electorate of New Brunswick has been well earned. In the interests of decent journalism it is to be hoped the lesson will have a reforming effect on those who on questions not political have undertaken the reformation of mankind generally. If the beam is removed the mote might also disappear.

WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO GERMANY.

The prospect of additional grain shipments through the Winter Port of St. John next season is held out by the information contained in a recent report of the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Germany. He states that Canadian wheat is taking a very high place in the estimation of German importers and sees every reason to expect that there will be a considerable increase in the importation of Canadian cereals into that country this year. Germany's average yearly importation of wheat amounts to approximately one hundred million dollars per annum. Of this amount the United States received last year eighteen million dollars, and up to March 31, Canada's trade had only amounted to the comparatively insignificant sum of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars. This is, of course, very little more than a sample order, but fortunately the sample was highly approved.

With the tariff of Germany as favorable to Canada as to any of her competitors on the grain markets of the world, it therefore reasonable to expect a larger business in the future. During the past season grain was shipped through St. John to Germany in the steamers of the London and Antwerp line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. With the increased demand a corresponding increase in the trade will develop to the benefit and growing prestige of the Winter Port.

MR. F. B. BLACK.

In another column The Standard publishes a well deserved tribute to Mr. F. B. Black of Sackville in the Sackville Post. Mr. Black's victory in Westmorland County, where he led the poll, was all the more significant from the fact that he was singled out on many occasions for abuse and personal attack by the Liberal organs which were sent free of charge into every home in the county. Misrepresentation of the Government candidates and false accusations, hurled broadcast, were prominent features of the Opposition's campaign. Of these Mr. Black received rather more than his share. He requires no clearer vindication than his position at the head of the poll when the ballots were counted. No better proof is needed that the charges against him were not believed.

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CURRENT COMMENT ON PROVINCIAL ELECTION. THE MAN WHO DEFEATED MR. COPP. (Sackville Post). If there was one member of the government ticket in this county our Liberal friends seemed particularly anxious to defeat at the polls. Thursday, it was F. B. Black. From the day the campaign opened until the day of polling, the opposition speakers left no stone unturned to injure Mr. Black in the eyes of the electors. The strike on the Cape Road was worked for all it was worth for no other reason than to prejudice the workman against the government candidate in Sackville. The local agitator went almost insane over the alleged grievances of the men who had been in the employ of this road. All sorts of mistakes were made. The strike was sent to the Moncton Transcript, and every paragraph contained a slur at F. B. Black. Mr. Black was held up to ridicule because he was a wealthy man and was able to drive an automobile. He was attacked because he did not pay as high a tax on some of his lumber lands as Mr. Copp and his friends thought he should pay.

Save Copp at all Costs. Towards the close of the campaign the leading members of the opposition here in Sackville seemed to feel that it would be impossible to elect the full ticket, and the word was evidently passed around to defeat Black at any cost and save Copp. Our readers know what happened. Mr. Black was elected at the head of the poll; he defeated Mr. Copp by over 600 votes. He defeated him in every parish in the county except Dorchester and Westmorland, and here the voting was slow. It is interesting to note that the organized attempt to defeat him Mr. Black's victory was one of the most notable in the political history of the county. His success was due largely to his own hard work from the moment the campaign opened until the day of the election. He was able to get on the platform to present the facts attractively and in a manner all could easily follow; to the popularity but not least, to the band of faithful workers he had in every parish in the county.

REASONS FOR THE ROUT. (Chatham Commercial). After one of the shortest and sharpest campaigns in the political history of New Brunswick, the Fleming administration has been returned to power with the most sensational majority ever known in the province, and with the single exception of the late Mr. Black in British Columbia, ever known in Canada. Out of a house of forty-eight members forty-six are supporters of the opposition, leaving an opposition composed of two only. Mr. Copp, the opposition leader had no policy worthy of the name or one which was fit to be submitted to any body of intelligent electors. Moreover, the people of New Brunswick were a staunch, ardent supporter of the old regime, and as such had to bear his share of the blame for the late government was guilty. In the short time during which he occupied the position of Premier, he displayed no evidence of fitness for the position of leader of the government, but rather showed that he was not fit to be in the most barefaced mis-statements an utter unscrupulousness and want of principle which would totally unfit him for such a honorable position.

The Reward of Misrepresentation. Another thing which helped to swell the majorities of the government candidates, was the reaction which took place in the minds of many previous opponents of the government. In consequence of the gross and willful misrepresentation in which the opposition supporters, and especially its press, indulged, they were misled into a truthful case against the government, they descended to misrepresentation of the means and means in power men whose record did not entitle them to the support of any respectable elector. These methods have met with a just rebuke from an indignant electorate.

The opposition newspapers, from the Telegraph to the most influential down to the Richmond Review, the meanest, one and all vied with each other in spreading as far abroad as they could the vilest and most malicious slanders. The name of the most scandalous, and in many cases, utterly absurd assertions. There was no statement so untruthful for them to make, and time after time they submitted to their readers as serious of the most erroneous character which, when attention was called to them, they not only refused to correct but added to the original offence by republication at the earliest opportunity. The name of these journals have now become by words of reproach among decent minded men, who have by this time cleared to treat them and the "news" they print, at their proper value.

A SLANDER ON THE PROVINCE. (Moncton Times). This is the way Mr. Copp's friends explained their defeat in despatches to newspapers outside the province: With a lavish use of money and liquor, the like of which was never dreamed of in this province, the Fleming government captured every seat in the contest except Madawaska, where Messrs. Pugh and Dugal, the Liberal candidates, in spite of every effort of the government party to debauch the electorate, won handsomely. New Brunswick, thanks to hundreds of thousands of dollars and more run than ever used in any political battle before, voted today for C. P. R. domination and reckless expenditure of the people's money.

So far from this being the case all reports agree that the election was one of the most orderly ever conducted in this province. At the polls in Moncton city there was not a sign of liquor, or of bribery, and the quiet manner in which the voting went on was the subject of general comment. The same is true of the parts of the Moncton polls and there is every rea-

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VERY POOR LOSERS. (Woodstock Press). The grit newspapers in this county show that they are very poor losers. The Sentinel has been repeating over and over again, and with a flourish, that Mr. Fleming has flagrantly and repeatedly violated a pledge not to use money, rum or other means to corrupt voters, and has prompted by heartlessness, and a want of the common kindness one may have toward another. Readers of the Press have noticed that during this bitter campaign, not one word has appeared in its columns upon the Thorne case, the Birmingham matter, or the Bell unsavory subject, which could have been used against the opposition candidates. We considered that kind of journalism was of the gutter stamp and only suitable for the Sentinel and Observer columns. We gained votes for the government candidates by conducting a clean campaign.

BALL PLAYER BREAKS ONE OF HIS ARMS. Special to The Standard. Andover, June 26.—While running after a foul fly back of third base in the game of baseball between the Juniors of Perth and Grand Falls this morning, Elmer Price of Perth, tripped over a log and fell, breaking his right arm at the elbow. The boy finished the inning, but on attempting to bat found his arm was useless and swelling rapidly. The broken member was reset by Dr. Earle. The Perth boys won two games by the scores of 20 to 9 and 14 to 8.

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