

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1911.

PUBLIC SERVANTS IN POLITICS.

All reports from the Northwest agree in the representation that the great majority of the officials of the Interior Department in that section of Canada were actively engaged in the late campaign. From Homestead inspectors and immigration officials down to forest rangers—they were "on the job." To the foreign settlers these men embody the attributes of despotism. They meet them when they land, guide them to their new abodes, advise them as to lands, and during the three years that they are perfecting their claims are virtually their masters. No illness or homestead can be obtained except on a favorable report from the officials, and the knowledge of this fact is impressed upon every homesteader. The power thus obtained has been used by Mr. Oliver very openly and shamelessly. Homestead inspectors have journeyed with him and his candidates through their constituencies and appeared on their platforms, and lesser officials have been put upon the canvass. Each successful election the abuse has been winked at, condoned and even openly defended.

In the recent election all pretence seems to have been thrown to the winds. Offices were abandoned, official work discontinued and practically the whole horde was on the tramp from day to day in the interest of the Liberal candidates. Such a prostitution of public office must be put an end to. The beginning has been made by the defeat of the Government which, in spite of solemn and repeated pledges, permitted the abuse and in the case of some Ministers encouraged and abetted it.

This must be followed up by the dismissal of every official high or low who is guilty of such conduct. The fact of his guilt must first be fairly and fully established, and when that is done he must follow his late masters into retirement. The fact that his Minister ordered him to enter the active canvass is no excuse. It may be assumed that he made no objection and that he, being a partisan on appointment, was both willing and anxious to serve his party at the expense of his country.

Once this horde of partisans is gotten rid of the new Government will have a fair field to appoint such public officials as are competent and necessary for the duties to be fulfilled. When these new officials are appointed they should be given to understand that so long as they are officers of the Government their duty is to do the country's work and to leave politics alone. Their right to vote and their liberty of choice should be insured to them. They should not be allowed to engage in the active work of party politics on pain of dismissal, prompt and automatic.

In this way not only will this service be purified and strengthened, but a great step forward will have been taken towards the establishment of a new and better system in the outside service generally.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONERSHIP.

These newspapers which have been booming the appointment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the High Commissionership in London have more regard for the picturesque than for what is fitting. On almost every distinguishing and important point Sir Wilfrid embodies the antithesis of the policy of the Government for which he would be acting. Freed from the driving power of party necessity Sir Wilfrid becomes in fact, as he is and has always been in theory and in heart, a Free Trader. The new Government in principle and practice is Protectionist.

Sir Wilfrid is a Protectionist and lost power in his attempt to bring about the first instalment of Free Trade between Canada and the United States.

The new Government by inclination, and by practice, represents the ideal of our fiscal independence of the United States, of Imperial Preference and the greatest possible extension of trade within the Empire.

Sir Wilfrid stands for the neutrality of Canada in times of Empire wars. He has affirmed that position both in the Parliament of Canada and in the Imperial Conference. He, so far as he was able, placed Canada outside the orbit of Empire, and virtually proclaimed separation as the ultimate and logical outcome.

The Conservative Government stands for the solidarity of the Empire in peace and war, for participation in the fruits of peace, and for bearing a fair share of the burdens necessary to secure and maintain it.

The High Commissioner is not a mere emigration official or trade representative. If he were that and nothing more it would yet be absolutely necessary that he be in full accord with the Government whose representative he was. But he is more than a supervisor of the Canadian emigration officers and trade commissioners. He is a confidential and trusted agent of the Dominion Government in its dealings with the Home Government. As such he must be in touch with the inner policies and wishes of the Government, must in fact be in their confidence. He becomes cognizant of their secret state communications, and is often their intermediary advocate with the British Ministry.

These considerations show how Utopian is the suggestion that the political opponent of the Ideals, the policies and the personnel of the Conservative Government should be selected for so important and confidential a position. Not only would the Government stultify and jeopardize itself by such an appointment, but Sir Wilfrid's knowledge of the fitness of things would absolutely preclude his acceptance of the post if it were offered to him.

Some papers possess a vast deal more capacity for the foolish and sensational than for common sense suggestions.

MISCHIEF-MONGERS.

Over the ill-chosen pseudonym "U. E. L." some kind soul in Ottawa has written a long letter to the New York Evening Post to explain why the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was defeated. Ontario, he says, was weary of French domination, and restless under the rule of a French-Canadian and a Catholic who got his majority in Quebec. Because of this undercurrent of religious and racial feeling the judgment of the electors on Reciprocity was not to be accepted as in any way conclusive. The writer adds with charming artlessness that there was no time for the principle to be thoroughly explained to the electorate.

If the main phases of any question, remarks the Toronto News, in commenting on U.E.L.'s letter, cannot be thoroughly presented to the country in the space of eight months, there must be unparalleled stupidity, either on the part of the debaters with voices open, or on the part of the earnest and independent voters engaged in sifting and reading. The writer admits, however, that

the voice of an independent spirit had been heard at the polls. How was this developed, if not by the educative campaign conducted by the press? A good many curious statements which do not dovetail artistically might be found in a critical examination of the letter as a whole, but these must be overlooked in view of the race and creed declaration.

Not from this source alone has the suggestion come that the election was won by a charge of the Protestant Light Horse. La Presse has shown the same story in double-column measure with black type interpolations. Further, the same journal has printed violent anti-Catholic appeals which, it boldly asserts—and without foundation—were circulated by hundreds of thousands in Ontario. Other Liberal journals have hinted at anti-Catholic feelings. Even the sullen and angry Toronto Globe has given symptoms of growing.

The fact is that there has not been an election for fifteen years when there was so little religious agitation as during the campaign just closed. Whatever race and creed shouting we had was in favor of the Liberals. The boldest, most shameless, most venal appeal which ever disgraced Canadian politics was made by La Presse. Men were urged to vote for Laurier because he was French and Catholic, to shut their ears to all argument, to disregard the good or evil of his policies and his record, and to think only of race and creed. It was a desperate attempt to hold the Solid Quebec. It failed. Now when the Liberal party is only pitiable wreckage, another attempt is being made to rouse French and Catholic feeling against the people of Ontario and other provinces—to rally Quebec once more. It is rotten politics, based on a lie, and dependent upon suspicion and hatred for success. But it will fail. French-Canadians are not fools, to be compelled by sentimental considerations to condone dishonest Government and a suicidal trade policy.

As for the judicial-minded "U.E.L." he would be better advised in verifying his information before instructing our neighbors. He says in his letter that Ontario gave a majority for Reciprocity in 1891. On the contrary, it gave a majority against it. Furthermore, in 1878 Ontario changed a Liberal majority of 40 into a Conservative majority of 30. Ontario is Protectionist in sentiment. It declines to be deluged by the "Economic Thought" of the Cobdenites. It has given one more verdict to the same old question, and the Continentals are angry. But better far for them to sputter at home than to follow U.E.L.'s example and misrepresent Canadian sentiment abroad.

Current Comment

(Boston Transcript.)

The Province of New Brunswick, Canada, breathes freer. All our authorities on this side of the line have agreed that Brigham Young, the Mormon leader, was born at Waltham, Vt., but there has recently been revived at St. John a story, published there in 1876, which is forth with much circumstantial detail that the birth of Brigham in Queens County, N. B., on March 24, 1801, the residence of Ludovic Syphers, in the parish of Canby, by Rev. Richard Clark, rector of Gagetown, on March 3, 1806. The reappearance of this assertion caused some annoyance to the Loyalist Society of St. John, which prides itself on pedigrees, and its star historian was solicited to investigate the matter. Twice he has probed it. The first time he showed that the church records at Gagetown contained no record of any such baptism, but admitted that the case stood not proven. The second time he put forward, without comment, a rival claim to Brigham's birthplace, propounded by Annapolis County, N. S. Now at the third attempt, having studied Vol. XII of "American Ancestry," he joyously concedes that Brigham was descended from an American ancestor, William Young of Hopkinton, Mass. This is undoubtedly correct. Yet we would cheerfully have shared with New Brunswick the fame of the prophet—such as it is.

(Buffalo Courier.)

The Catholic Telegraph gives these "mixed marriage statistics" for Holland: Protestant mother, Catholic father. Of the 3,426 children born, 1,747 are Protestants, 1,412 are Catholics, 367 are without religion. Mother without religion, a Catholic father. Thirty-two are Catholics, thirty-one are without religion. Jewish mother, Catholic father. Of the twelve children born one is a Protestant, four are Catholics, three are Jews, four are without religion. Catholic mother, Protestant father. Of the 3,455 children born 1,242 are Protestants, 1,851 are Catholics, 362 are without religion. Catholic mother, Jewish father. Of the twenty-four children born fourteen are Catholics, one a Jew, nine are without religion. Catholic father and mother. Of the 61,017 children born 61,017 are Catholics, one is a Protestant, twenty-nine belong to different religions.

(Toronto News.)

One of the first duties of the incoming Government will be to ascertain the exact position of the National Transcontinental Railway. Mr. Borden's advice followed the road would have been National in fact as well as in name. Besides paying for it the people would have owned it and operated it. A public-owned line from coast to coast would have given the farmers of the West the lower freight rates they so much desire. Extreme conservative as he is, Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have nothing to do with any scheme of state proprietorship. In taking this stand he was perfectly consistent, for he also steadily refused to nationalize the telephone and telegraph systems, even though by so doing he could have secured lower transmission rates for the public.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The dredging contracts in the vicinity of St. John have been among the greatest examples of graft in the by no means fragrant history of the Liberal Government. The waste of public money there in the years past has been flagrant and disgraceful. The manner in which it was handled is a study. Had Mr. Pugsley been allowed to hold up the Government has been the theme of numerous heated debates in Parliament and of scandals innumerable. All attempts on the part of the Opposition to stop the dredging graft in the past were voted down by a brute force majority of Liberals, and in the public accounts committee the taking of evidence was suppressed in the same manner.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

"Reciprocity is not dead yet," says a sanguine contemporary. This recalls the remark of the Irishman who brought word to the village that his neighbor was dead. "Why," said a friend of the departed, "I saw him in perfect health last week." He surely cannot be dead. "Then, be jabers," was the reply, "they've served him a dirty trick, for they buried him yesterday."

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

It is doubtful if complete church union is possible. Certainly it could not be permanent, for new sects would be sure to spring up as new religious convictions gained headway. As far as foreign missions are concerned, however, church union is both possible and desirable. There ought to be some sort of religious espousals upon which all Christian bodies could agree in their dealings with heathendom.

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GOOD WORK DONE BY CONTINUATION SCHOOLS

Letter from F. H. Sexton Dealing with this Feature of Educational Effort—Approves of School Gardens.

To the Editor of The Standard.
Sir:—I notice in your report of my talk before the Teachers' Institute at Hampton, N. B. in your issue of Tuesday, Oct. 3rd, that the term "Continuation School" was substituted for "Continuation School." This might lead to some confusion in the minds of your readers. What I talked about was the continuation school.

Most of your readers, I am sure, choose their secondary school one which corresponds to a school like an academy or high school and which follows the common school and gives instruction for full time every school day to those who have no other principal occupation in life, but to continue the education of the individual who is in the boy or girl the science mathematics, English, bookkeeping, and drawing upon which their special vocations are founded. Instruction is usually given by a teacher who has a thorough mastery of the practical side of the trade or occupation of his pupils and deals with the everyday problems of the student. The training in the continuation school is given to boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 17 or 18. Its special value is that it fits boys and girls for making a living and for life and is a tremendous social agency making for intelligent, good-willed, independent citizens.

In Germany the continuation school is looked upon as the most powerful educational instrument in raising the status of intelligence, skill, and citizenship of the masses. It applies equally to any manufacturing community as well as to a rural agricultural population. In the common schools everywhere the main aim and accomplishment is to give to the pupil up to the age of 14 intellectual capacity. In the common schools, the pupil learns very few facts that he carries with him into practical life, which he uses in his vocation. But after he has left the common schools and has chosen his vocation, the continuation school step in and continue his education in another direction, giving him the special facts, theory, and art of his vocation. The continuation school does not or cannot get by himself from the factory or farm.

The establishment of these continuation schools is the next great step which we as a young country should take in our educational and social progress. It is one of the most important steps we could make for guaranteeing our future greatness among nations. It is the chief reason for Germany's phenomenal advance the last forty years. If one civilized nation has demonstrated the effectiveness of such schools, the other nations must imitate in self defense.

Another slight error crept into your columns mentioning Mr. Plummer as the man who commented so highly on the efficiency and intelligence of the Nova Scotia Colliery officials. The gentleman was Mr. Cornelius Shields of the United States, and was one of the early general managers of the Dominion Coal Company.

Permit me to say through your columns that I was surprised and delighted at the earnestness of the educationists at the Teachers' Institute at Hampton. I had the privilege of attending the meeting of the trustees section on the second day of the Institute and was impressed by the facts brought out in the discussion there, and effort some of the trustees and public spirited citizens in the rural districts give (over and over) a more modern and thorough education in the smaller settlements. The idea of a trustees' section of a Teachers' Institute meeting deserves to be more widely copied.

I was delighted also to become acquainted with the success of the school garden movement in Kings' and Queen's counties. It seems as though the present generous assistance of the government toward school gardens should tend to a much greater degree to solve this problem and lead to the establishment of a garden in practically every school in the agricultural portions of New Brunswick.

No man could prophesy too largely on the direct beneficial results that will accrue to the agricultural industry in the next decade, after the general establishment of well conducted gardens at the schools.

King's and Queen's counties are indeed fortunate in having such an energetic inspector as Mr. Steeves in enthusiastically carrying on this pioneer welfare work.
F. H. SEXTON.

THE COURTS

Estate of Wm. Peters.
In the Probate Court yesterday the will of William Peters, merchant, was proved. He gives to his executors and trustees all his real and personal estate in trust for his wife, Mary Jane Peters, for life, and after her death to his son, George B. Peters, the rest of his estate to be divided amongst his children including his said son. The share of deceased daughter, Annie J. Peters, is to go to her children. He nominates Hon. Ezekiel McLeod, Mrs. Alice M. Peters and James Patterson executors. They were accordingly sworn in. Real estate \$2,400; personal estate \$780, besides life insurance payable to the widow, Sarah Hill, Ewing and Sanford are proctors.

Estate of Herman Ahlbom.
In the matter of the estate of Herman Ahlbom, there was return of a citation to pass the accounts of H. W. Walker. He was left to the judgment of the court, decision as to which is held over pending corroboration of the time engaged. The balance of the estate, something over \$450, goes under the terms of the will to the Home for Incurables. Clarence H. Ferguson is proctor for the executor; J. Joseph Porter proctor for the claimant.

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