

LEIFURG PROGRESS

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COAL SYNDICATE

Several Tories, including C. E. Kaulback M. P., W. A. Letson and A. J. Wolff, in their speeches throughout the County, are attempting to attack the government for the Whitney Coal legislation. It is needless for us to say that these gentlemen know as much about the Coal question as the unborn child. Their speeches indicate that their knowledge concerning the Whitney Syndicate is gathered entirely from the false editorials of the Halifax Herald. We fail to see why there should be any dispute about the Whitney Syndicate in this County, for in the rest of the province both parties agree that the government made a splendid bargain for the province. In the county of Cape Breton, where the question is thoroughly understood, Liberals and Tories alike agree that the Whitney Syndicate legislation cannot be attacked. When the bill creating the Dominion Coal Company was before the legislature and Mr. Cahlan in his indiscreet speeches was attacking the government, Dr. McKay, ex-leader of the opposition and now one of the tory candidates in Cape Breton County, wired Mr. Cahlan that the course he was pursuing in reference to the Whitney Syndicate was wrong and injurious to the tory party in Cape Breton county. As we have said before, this matter is hardly a question about which there is any difference of opinion. The most prominent and intelligent Tories of the province have endorsed the scheme. Sir John Thompson, tory premier of Canada, T. B. Kenny one of the tory Dominion representatives of Halifax county, David McKeen, one of the tory members of Cape Breton county, and thousands of other prominent Tories of the province endorse the scheme. T. B. Smith of Hants one of the tory members in the house of assembly, just a few days before the house prorogued, said the Whitney Syndicate could not be attacked. Even Mr. Cahlan, the leader of the opposition, in his speech at the Lyceum at Halifax a few days ago, said that time alone would show whether the Whitney Syndicate was a good thing or not. This was an admission that he did not know that his opposition to the Whitney Syndicate was justifiable or not. In the face of such facts, how absurd it is for such men as Messrs. Kaulback, Wolff and Letson and the tory candidates to tell the electors that the Whitney legislation is a bad thing for the province. The Whitney Syndicate means an increased revenue for the province, an increase in the output of coal and increased employment for miners and shipping. The charge that the price of coal has advanced on account of the Syndicate is absolutely false, and cannot be substantiated. The Whitney Coal legislation is not only a good thing for Cape Breton but for the whole province and for that reason thousands of leading Tories approve of it.

**Vote for
Church and
Sperry**
The Liberal Candidates

WHAT SIR JOHN THOMPSON SAID

On the floor of the house of commons at Ottawa Sir John Thompson in reply to Dr. Waldon spoke as follows concerning the coal syndicate:

"He admits that it is a valuable asset of the province, and he admits that the provincial government has parted with the property under terms which, as he describes it, will fill the provincial treasury. He admits further that the bargain which he condemns will probably aid in coal development by diminishing the cost of its production; that it will economize the management of this industry, now carried on by several distinct companies; that it will apply improved methods of shipment to it; that it will reduce the charges of mining as well as the charges of management; and that it will in every way lessen the cost of production in order that coal may reach the market at a much lower price than it does now. Surely these are advantages; they are great advantages to the provincial government and to the people of the province, not only as affording increased means for carrying on the local service, but as stimulating a productive industry in which great numbers of people in that province find employment, and are a decided advantage to other portions of the Dominion as putting it in the power of a new company to sell its coal at a lower price than companies now operating can sell it for. The hon. gentleman has admitted the possibilities for good which this legislation contains."

Whose opinion will the electors of this county take? That of Sir John Thompson or that of Mr. Kaulback and the tory candidates in this county?

DAVID MCKEEN'S LETTER

David McKeen, Conservative M. P., for the county of Cape Breton and one who is thoroughly acquainted with the coal mining industry, has written a letter concerning the Whitney syndicate, and we publish from it the following extracts which should forever seal the mouths of those silly Tories who are attacking the coal syndicate:

"I am thoroughly familiar with the plans and purposes of the company and in early accord with them. I think the legislation creating this company was wise and far-seeing, and have so stated in the House of Commons as a supporter of the government. I have no sympathies with parties who, deliberately, denounce measures which, if successfully carried out, must result in public good; and such a course seems to me to say very little for the intelligence of those persons who pursue it, just at the time when we are looking for outside capital to develop our iron mines, to which it now seems probable that the U. S. will open its markets.

My replies to these specific charges brought against the Dominion Coal company must be brief. It is hardly necessary now to reply to the first, which was so indifferently circulated in the country; that the company had acquired the Cape Breton collieries in order to close them, in the interests of the American mines. The lapse of a year since they came into possession of these mines has been sufficient to give the lie to this statement.

There is only one other matter to which I think I need refer, and that is to the constantly recurring complaint that the Dominion Coal company, in obtaining possession of these mines, were aiming at the establishment of a huge monopoly by means of which they would seek to crush both the miners and customers of coal in the district. Such an outrageous and extravagant charge carries with it its own refutation.

It is only necessary to remind you that all the actions of this company go to disprove such an allegation.

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TORY DEBT CRY

Our Tory friends shout: "Look at the public debt. It is a huge debt. Every cent of that huge debt has been created by the Fielding government. For creating that huge debt, Church, Sperry and the government should be driven from power." Such is the cry of the opponents of the government.

But there is another side to the debt story. Every borrowing bill, introduced by the Fielding government, received the support and votes of the Tories in the house. In 1891 the government introduced a bill to borrow \$50,000. The Tories in the house voted for that bill. In 1892 the government introduced the road borrowing bill. Dr. McKay, then leader of the Tories in the house, said that the sum mentioned in the bill should be larger and he voted for the bill as did his followers. So it is not fair for Messrs. Hirtle, McLean, Kaulback, Letson and the other conservative speakers to condemn the government on account of the public debt.

But fair or not fair, they will condemn. This being the case, it is necessary to look still further into this question. What is the size of this debt? The gross debt is \$1,141,043.17. To the credit of the province at Ottawa is \$1,050,230.19. Deduct the smaller from the greater sum and you will have in round numbers \$2,000,000. That represents the entire debt of the province of Nova Scotia. Messrs. McLean and Hirtle claim that that is a huge debt and more than the people can bear. Now listen.

But they forget to tell the people that on the 27th of November, 1878, just a few weeks after obtaining power, the Holmes-Thompson government (tory) passed a minute of council authorizing the provincial secretary to borrow \$2,000,000 and would have borrowed \$2,000,000 had not the legislative council put an end to their undertaking.

Now we have reached the point. If it were all right for a tory government to borrow \$2,000,000 fifty-two years ago, how could it be wrong for the Fielding government to create a \$2,000,000 debt during the past twelve years? This question should be planted under the nose of every tory who dare open his mouth regarding the public debt.

We admit however that this is not the most statesmanlike way of answering the tory debt cry. Their contentions can be better met by showing that the money borrowed was not wasted but well spent. Of the borrowed money, \$30,000 went to the western counties railway, \$34,500 to the Cumberland railway, \$24,000 to the Joggins railway, \$48,000 to the Cornwallis railway, \$35,000 to the New Glasgow railway, \$45,000 to the Victoria General Hospital, \$64,000 to bridges, \$1,188,005 to roads \$577,000. The balance was divided among Blind School, Victoria Hospital, Agricultural Societies, public charities, Hospital, insane, etc., etc. Thus it will be seen that the Tories in the house voted with the government to borrow the money making up the public debt. Nor will it be forgotten that the borrowed monies have been well laid out by the Fielding government. This ends the tory debt cry. There is nothing in it.

**VOTE FOR
CHURCH AND SPERRY**
The Liberal Candidates.

CANADA'S LIQUOR BILL

COMPARED WITH VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS OF THE EXPENDITURE OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. BASED ON THE CENSUS & GOVERNMENT BLUE BOOKS

LIQUOR \$27,028,000

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURES \$27,000,000

MEAT \$22,475,000

BREAD \$21,075,000

WOOLEN GOODS \$21,100,000

SAWED LUMBER CONSUMED \$19,707,000

ROOTS AND SHOES \$18,000,000

COTTON GOODS \$13,803,000

SUGAR AND MOLASSES \$9,707,000

SCHOOLS \$8,000,000

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS \$600,000

The figures given show that the Canadian people spend more for whiskey and other intoxicating drinks than for any other class of manufactures, five million more for liquor than for meat; six millions more for liquor than for bread or woollen goods. They spend more for coal-burning drinks than for all the lumber they annually use for building their houses, and barns, and fences; and for making their furniture; one third more on the stuff that puts spikes in their boots than on the boots themselves; twice as much for alcohol as for cottons; nearly three times as much as for sugar; and while they spend \$5,000,000 clearing their heads by education they spend three and a half times as much for muddling them. Liquor costs the Dominion as much as a respectable war, and kills more than such a war generally does. The drink bill of the Dominion is seven millions in excess of the entire assessable property, real and personal, of Halifax! The indirect cost for the maintenance of prisons and asylums, and the loss of labor, is another item in the drink bill of the country, which would swell the total financial loss caused by the liquor traffic to an even more enormous sum, and the financial loss, after all, is the smallest evil of the whole business. The liquor traffic causes hard times and bad trade, and employs the least amount of labor, for

VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES

No sane man questions the return to power of the Fielding government. The probabilities are that the opposition will not have as many supporters in the next parliament as in the last which was only nine. Even the tory candidates in this county and many of their prominent supporters have admitted to several persons that the government will be sustained. The Halifax Herald is good authority that the government will be returned. Just before the last local election the Herald predicted that the government was "doomed" to defeat. The result was that the government captured 29 seats out of 38. The Herald is again predicting the defeat of the government which likely means that the government will be returned by a bigger majority than ever. Now that the government will certainly be sustained, would it not be common sense for the electors of the county to support the government candidates—Church and Sperry? We think every elector will see the advisability of returning two members who will be in sympathy with the Fielding government. It would be utter nonsense for this county to send to the local legislature two men opposed to the government. Further we must remind the electors of this county that Hon. G. B. Church is a member of the government, which is an honor and an advantage to the county. Now while there is no doubt but that Messrs. Church and Sperry will be elected, yet we think that the intelligent and moderate element of the tory party in this county should vote for them, because they are supporters of the Fielding government which will rule this province from 1894 to 1898.

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ARGUS ON PROHIBITION

The conservative Argus, in its issue of last week, gives the following advice to the electors:

"To our friends, to the friends of Prohibition, grit or tory, we say Let this question be settled by a full expression of public sentiment. Remember that the candidates have nothing to do with the matter, that no party has to do with it. It is for the people to say what they want, and when they have expressed their opinion, then it will be for the candidates to act—to carry out the will of the people. Again, we say, let there be a full vote, an honest vote for or against. For ourselves we are prepared to endorse the result. If the people of this county and this province by a clear and distinct majority that they want prohibition, then they shall have our support to obtain it, and we feel sure we can pledge the candidates of the Liberal Conservative party to the same course.

That is what the Argus has to say regarding the greatest or one of the greatest questions of the day. We are prepared to go the Argus one better and advise all the voters of Lunenburg county to go to the polls and vote for prohibition. The liquor business is of little benefit to even the engaged therein and it is an injury to the public. This being the case, it is the duty of all good citizens to go to the polls and play their part in the task of removing that which is an injury to the public. No matter how you may act in connection with Church & Sperry or Hirtle & McLean, be sure electors to vote for prohibition.

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