

EVENTS

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The Auditor General.

IN the editorial columns of the Summerside Journal of July the 27th there is an article stating that the Conservative party to a man, is at the back of the Auditor General "in his attempt to protect the treasury against the hordes of grafters, who throng the corridors of Parliament buildings." We have seen this article in a number of newspapers, chiefly weeklies, published in various parts of the Dominion. The article was written at Ottawa as campaign literature for the Opposition, and sent out to various publications throughout the Dominion. The Summerside Journal is ignorant of the fact that the Auditor General is possessed of all the powers he ever had, that he is clothed with all the authority that a long statute could give him, that he has not been deprived of a single right or a particle of authority since he was appointed to office.

The Summerside Journal is probably ignorant of the fact that what the Auditor General wants is larger powers, and that his powers are not so large that if they are exercised in an arbitrary way or exercised

in a spirit of forgetfulness of the system of responsible government under which we live, they might be, and indeed would be, too wide and too large. Public attention has been attracted to the Auditor General by the Auditor General himself, when he allowed a year to go by before bringing up the Davis case, and only brought it up then after friction had arisen between himself and the minister with whom he usually deals. The Summerside Journal is probably not aware that the case made out by the Auditor General upon the Davis contract was completely shattered by the minister of justice, whose views were sustained from the Opposition benches by Hon. John Haggart, ex-minister of railways and canals. What object the Conservative party can have in trying to exalt the position of the Auditor General into what Sir Wilfrid Laurier termed "the position of a czar," is hard to imagine, especially in view of the expectation the Conservative party have of some day coming into power. It is true that the Auditor General criticizes the expenditure

of the government. That is what he is there for. But he must do so within certain limits; and always bearing in mind that while he is responsible to parliament as an official for auditing the accounts, the ministers of the Crown are essentially the men responsible to Parliament for the expenditure of public money. We fear that the Auditor General, a man of the highest character, and for whom everyone has the greatest respect, has been so long in office—a quarter of a century—that he has come to regard himself as the censor of the various officials and of the government itself, and it is this false spirit of supervision and control that has wrought upon his mind by the refusal of the government to amend the Audit Act, and confer on him larger powers. In the discussion in the House the Minister of Justice made the statement, that there had not been even the assertion that a single dollar of public money had been expended for which no value was received on account of the want of power vested in the Auditor General, and he quoted the very case under consideration—the Davis case—to show that in that case the Auditor General summoned engineers before him, and not content with that, employed his own expert engineers, and not content with the opinion of the department of Justice, employed able counsellor at law, and held the most-searching investigation. It is a very serious

question indeed if the government is going to derogate its legitimate functions to a paid official of Parliament. The same article in the *Summerside Journal* concludes by saying that "Mr. McDougall was not to be brow-beaten, and has forced the issue. Will Canada stand by the Auditor General or by the Grafters?" The *Journal* had better ask its readers whether the Hon. John Haggart, Mr. Pringle, and others are grafters, and they might also reproduce the cartoon from the *Toronto News*, which depicts Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative party declining to take issue with the government on this question of the Auditor General in the Davis contract. As for a dissatisfied official of the government to go so far as to appeal to the people on some issue which in his own view should be pronounced upon at the polls that is an intolerable thing. The article in question says that "the issue must be decided at the next general election." What issue? The issue of the Davis contract. That contract was entered into by the Conservative government and the statement that it was extended from 21 years to 84 years was shown by the discussion in Parliament to be utterly without foundation. The trouble about many weekly papers is that they are chasing after this "will-o'-the-wisp" long after it has been buried.



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Autonomy for the Territories.

MR. R. L. BORDEN referred from his place in Parliament last week to the session being about to close without the government bringing down any measure for autonomy in the Northwest Territories. We believe that experienced men will go slow before tackling so big a job as the conferring of provincial status upon the Northwest Territories. In the first place the representative men from that part of the Dominion say that it would be an injustice to the Territories to apportion a permanent allowance to the Territories based on a population which is comparatively small but rapidly growing. Moreover it is inexpedient so soon after a very warm agitation, brought on in consequence of religious principles or prejudices to again plunge the people of this country into the excitement that would undoubtedly result from the manner in which school and other questions would have to be handled, before a complete working plan could be concluded.

The Territories are going rapidly ahead and are enjoying a largely increased allowance from the Dominion in fact more than double the amount paid over only two or three years ago. If the people of the Territories were laboring under any disabilities, if they were suffering any acute injustice, if, indeed, they had any well founded grievances consequent upon limited authority, something might be said in favor of pressing the government to grant autonomy, but that is far from being the case. They are today a self-governing people. They pass their own laws and administer them; they have their own

courts of justice, and in fact they have practically everything which the provinces have except the power to borrow money, and that is not a very great drawback.

The discussion which must precede a measure of this kind has been going on between the government at Regina and the government at Ottawa for several years. It was found at the very outset, that although Mr. Haultain, the premier of the Territorial government, was in favor of erecting one province out of the Territories, and was able to secure a mandate for that policy from the Assembly where he had a majority, there was a minority in favor of asking for two or more provinces, and in addition, there is even a larger question to be viewed from a national standpoint, as to whether the whole of that immense territory, and of the enormous provinces which comprise it, should be erected under one provincial government or even under two. A single government representing all these millions of square miles of territory, with the rapidly growing population, brought in at the general expense of Canada, might in a few years grow to overshadow almost any other province in the Dominion. The territory represented would be so great, that as compared to it almost all of the territory of the rest of the Dominion would be a mere speck. Questions of finance, Crown lands, railways, Indians, industrial schools, public schools, separate schools, would have to be all worked out in a scheme, and for Mr. R. L. Borden to wish us at present to rush in, is an adventure on which wiser men would fear to embark.



OVERLOOKING "THE HOUSE"

THERE can be no escape from the charge that the Dominion Opposition has neglected its plain duties during the session that has just closed. Somewhere around \$70,000,000 have been expended, and the criticism has been confined to probably \$300,000 or \$400,000, and even the items criticized were not challenged. Indeed,

the Opposition, so far from scrutinizing the expenditure closely is revealed as criticizing items which it refuses to allow to be struck out, when the government expresses willingness. That is decidedly weak. The Opposition has fairly revealed its inconsistency during the session just closed. On more than one occasion it has



A Toronto newspaper man in the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

when a challenge of an item of \$1,000 was made, the minister in charge moved to strike the item out, but the member of the Opposition who made the criticism protested, and in fact "dared" the minister to strike it out. The public must realize that

called for greater expenditure of money, and wound up by condemning the government for spending too much. A vote of want of confidence in the government was moved on the ground that the tobacco tax was not high enough, and at that

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same moment the Opposition was circulating a leaflet, entitled "Put This in Your Pipe and Smoke it," in which the government was condemned for putting too high a tax on tobacco. As it was put in the leaflet, "every user of tobacco has been paying \$4.75 more in taxes on tobacco as a result of Liberal rule." Such glaring inconsistency must strike the public as emanating from a weak Opposition, and a weak Opposition could never form a strong government.

work of the National Policy. The government while not raising the general tariff have thought it well to meet the grievance by imposing a special duty on dumped goods. If an article is sold at a lower price in Canada than it is sold in the country of production, that will be the evidence of dumping, and the difference between a fair market value in the country of production and the price at which it is sold in Canada shall be liable to a special duty of 50 per cent of the present duty. That



One of the working newspapermen of the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

The dumping clause was the subject of the discussion on Monday night when Mr. Fielding's resolution providing for the carrying out of this new principle was in committee. The Conservatives hardly know what to say about this new government policy. It is designed to afford protection to the Canadian manufacturer, in competition with the United States manufacturer, who will dump his goods into this country at a lower price than their regular market value in the United States. This making of Canada a slaughter market, as it is called, was the main cry and ground-

is to say that a fine of one-half of the original duty shall be levied on all goods which come under this dumping clause. If the duty for which the article of import is liable under the ordinary tariff is 30 per cent, and it is proved that the article is being dumped, then an extra duty of 15 per cent shall be levied, and the article will be liable to a total duty of 45 per cent. As Mr. Fielding said in his budget speech, fifty per cent of the grievances brought to the attention of the government by manufacturers resulted from the dumping of goods into Canada from the United

States at a lower price than they bring in the United States. Mr. Brock of Toronto thought there would be great difficulty in administering this law, but the government explained the various steps they were going to take in order to try to enforce the law. The resolution gave raise to a discussion on protection and the state of the country, during which the Conservatives said plainly that they wanted the tariff put up all round which shows that they desire

to shut out British goods just as strongly as they desire to shut out Yankee goods. They may "keep both hands on the Union Jack," but if they had their way they would tax the Union Jack as they did before, just as heavily as they would the Stars and Stripes.

Parliament was prorogued on Wednesday, 10th inst., exactly five months from the day it opened.

HIS PRIVATE OPINION.



King Edward—"Those Germans are good, brave people. (Aside) The Devil take them."—Jugend (Munich).

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Criticized by its Friends.

THE Davis contract has been so badly handled by the Opposition, as to cause open condemnation from Conservative friends. Although he was a year late the Auditor General put himself in the position of inquisitor, held an inquisitorial investigation, brought all the enormous powers conferred on him by the statute to bear, and made the most searching inquiry into the results and conditions of that contract, and he published the whole thing in his annual report, which was placed in the hands of the Opposition early during the session. In the old days when the Liberals were in Opposition they would have seized this opportunity with avidity, and would have made a thorough investigation before the public accounts committee. Here is where the Opposition is strong. They can summon witnesses from the uttermost ends of the earth to come before that committee, and they have the whole Dominion exchequer to draw upon for fees and expenses. They can compel the man before them to produce his books and even his bank account, and they can scrutinize every item of expenditure in any year. They can bring before them public officials, a Deputy Minister, the Auditor General, engineers—in fact anybody from whom a particle of information can be obtained. They can compel the government to produce official documents and files. A statement has been made in the press that the new contract would, in the course of its term cost the country \$4,000,000 more than the first contract. Why then did the Opposition not bring this matter before the public accounts committee, and produce evidence in support of that statement? They allowed month after month of the session to go by without moving a finger

in the matter, except to ask for papers, and finally all they did was to make a few speeches in the House of Commons; speeches conspicuous for ignorance of the matter, and for gross misstatements of the facts. For instance, it was said that the new contract extended the term from 21 years to 84 years, but it was proved that the original contract was renewable for three periods of 21 years each, and that the new contract had not extended the period by even a single day. So with regard to other statements. No wonder, therefore, that so staunch an advocate of the Conservative party as the *Toronto World* makes the following scathing condemnation:

But while Mr. Lennox opened up new channels of argument, he revealed no new facts. That is where the whole defence was weak. The Davis contract could have been more profitably considered in the public accounts committee than in the House. Auditor General McDougall's report was sufficiently suggestive of the necessity of an investigation. But instead of investigating the opposition has contented itself with two or three spasmodic oratorical onslaughts on the Davis contract.

It must be remembered that it is the duty of the Opposition to closely criticize the various items of expenditure. That is their function. It is not the business of the government that spends the money to criticize. That is the distinctive privilege and duty of the Opposition, and as they have failed in it the public must conclude that they would fail if put into more important positions. That is the conclusion which is borne upon all observers of the present Opposition, and where the well-wishers and friends come to that conclusion, as shown in the extract from the *Toronto World*, there can be small blame to opponents who express the same opinion.

EVENTS

Published Weekly.

ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor.

VOL. 6. AUGUST 13, 1904. No. 7

MR. H. W. MASSINGHAM, a well-known London journalist refers to "the reckless charges of Lord Dundonald." These references in the London press show that the General has not been misunderstood. A gentleman in Ottawa the other day received a letter from an old Scotchman in Western Ontario in which the Dundonald incident was spoken of with the stated conclusion, that "the silly man lost his head."

IN the House of Commons on Aug. 4th, the effect of the tariff changes on both crude and refined petroleum were discussed. It was charged by Mr. Clancy and Mr. Armstrong, that the industry producing crude oil had been very much injured. Mr. Clancy went so far as to say that the Government should have accepted the advice of the Standard Oil Co., because they understood the business. Mr. Fielding in reply stated that the Government would not accept the dictation of any corporation with regard to the public policy of the country. The facts do not seem to bear out the contention that the crude industry has been injured. On the 7th of June, the day before the tariff changes were announced, crude oil at Petrolia was selling at \$2.06 per barrel the corresponding oil at North Lima, in the United States was selling the same day at \$1.11, so that before the tariff changes Petrolia was getting 95 cents more per barrel than North Lima. Last week, nearly two months after the tariff changes, the price in Petrolia was \$1.51 per barrel. The bounty of 1½ cents per gallon given to crude oil under the tariff changes amounts to 52½ cents per barrel. This brings the price that the producer is getting in the county of Lambton up to \$2.08½ cents per barrel, while the North Lima oil is selling today at \$1.00

per barrel. These figures show that whereas, before the tariff changes, crude oil at Petrolia was bringing 95 cents more per barrel, it was bringing after the tariff changes \$1.08½ cents more than North Lima. The assertion, therefore, that the tariff changes injured the crude oil industry seems to be an idle contention in the face of these facts.

THE Governor-General and Countess of Minto received very high compliments from Canada's foremost public men on the floor of parliament the other night, when the farewell address to his excellency was adopted in the House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke of Lord Minto's unflinching devotion to duty, called him a model constitutional ruler, who, while maintaining the dignity of the crown did not forget the rights of the people. The leader of the Opposition declared that both Lord and Lady Minto would leave this country with the esteem and affection of all classes, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke in terms of great praise of the Countess of Minto.

THE confidence of the Democratic party in the United States, in the result of the presidential election, seems to be growing, and, to use the words of ex-president Cleveland, the Democrats enter upon the campaign in hope and confidence. Already the results by States is being predicted. The number of votes in the Electoral College which the Democrats claim to begin the campaign, is 169. These votes came principally from the solid South. It will take 239 votes to elect, and New York's 39 votes are essential to success. There will be a great struggle for the possession of Indiana, which has 15 votes. The Republicans claim that they will carry all the States which they carried in 1900, except Maryland, which is likely to go Parker, and in addition, the Republicans claim to expect to carry the four Western States, which in 1900 went to Bryan.

THE Valleyfield cotton factory has been closed down, on account, it is said, of the handicap of the British prefer-

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ence. A curious statement in this connection was made public the other day, and it was official, showing that last year the concern paid 9 per cent dividend. It is not for want of raw material, and it is not for want of a profitable market. What, then, is the mysterious reason for closing down? Some persons are suspicious enough to think that the action was taken in order to try to force the hand of the government to give increased protection to the cotton industry. We do not say that this is the case, but it is a little curious that a 9 per cent factory should close down, and the statement be made public that it was because they could not make it pay.

THE Senate of Canada is a peculiar body. The Speaker has not the control over the House as the Speaker of the House of Commons has over the popular Chamber. On last Thursday there was a motion made with respect to the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York. This was followed by another motion termed the previous question. This motion threw the Senate into a fever of excitement. Everybody tried to talk at once, and nearly everybody wanted to know what the motion meant. There were two or three who understood what the motion meant, but the Speaker himself did not appear to be clear on the point, and he asked for time to consider it. The chief discussion was as to whether the previous question precluded any further debate on the main motion. The thing is very simple. The moving of the previous question does not stop the fullest discussion of the main motion, but after the discussion is over and if the motion, that the previous question be now put is carried, then the main motion must be put without further debate and without amendment. No doubt, in this case the moving of the previous question was to prevent any amendment being made on the main motion, which practically vindicated the company as the result of an investigation held by a committee of the Senate.

THE Dominion Opposition is finding itself in trouble over uniting in opposition to the construction of the Grand Trunk

Pacific scheme. At a meeting of the Board of Trade at Calgary the other day a resolution stating that the construction of the road was imperatively called for, was moved by B. D. Bennett, who is Mr. Borden's candidate for the House of Commons in that constituency. There are several other cases of the same kind, though all are not perhaps so common.

THE echoes of Mr. Chamberlain in this country are now calling for another Intercolonial conference to consider the question of preferential trade. This is apropos of the suggestion made by Mr. Chamberlain in the English House. The fact that Mr. Chamberlain was reduced to this old and stale refuge showed that he was hard pressed and sparring for wind. Why, it is only two years since Mr. Chamberlain stood in the centre of an Intercolonial conference and sneered at the preference given by Canada to his own country.

AT a recent bowling tournament in London, Ont., there were over 300 players. The game seems to have taken hold in this country. We are referring to bowls on the green. It has infected the highest forum in the country, parliament. For the first time there has been this summer bowling on the lawn behind the House of Commons, and next year it is expected that a large number of members will purchase sets and turn out.

THE Canadian Keystone is the name of a new monthly publication, published in the interests of the Masonic craft at Ottawa. It is very neatly printed, handsomely illustrated in halftones, and for a first number is very creditable indeed.

THE Alien Labor Act was amended this week by parliament. In its original form the Act applied to such countries as had similar laws on their statute books. Later on this restrictive clause was struck out, leaving our act to apply to all countries without exception. This week's amendment restores the act as it was originally and it is now operative only against the United States. As to its bearing on

the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. We see no reason why the company should not obtain navvies from European countries. Canadians have something much better to do. For our part we would have no objection to navvies coming here from the United States to work on Canadian construction.

IN an article entitled "The Law for Perjury" in its issue of Friday, July 20th, the Toronto Mail and Empire denounced Sir Richard Cartwright for rewarding Mr. Jackson, who, the paper says, was rewarded for buying perjurers to give cooked-up evidence in an election trial. This reminds us of another leading article which appeared in the columns of the same paper some years ago entitled "The Black Flag," in which it denounced the appointment of a man named Clarke who was given a position in the department of justice in Ottawa as a reward for stealing. Sir John Macdonald and Sir John Thompson were responsible for that appointment, which the Mail and Empire properly condemned, just as the paper now condemns the appointment of Mr. Jackson. To some people there is a distinction between wrong doing for a political party or for election purposes, and the man who steals property as Clarke did for the purpose of selling it. We will leave this distinction to the politicians, but the common people are rather confused in their notions between right and wrong, by the examples of such distinguished persons as Sir John Macdonald, Sir John Thompson, and Sir Richard Cartwright.

IN the House of Commons the other night Mr. Henderson of Halton asked the question, "What legislative acts have been put through by the Laurier administration to enhance the prosperity of the country?" If there is going to be an election this year the Liberals will probably answer that question from the platform, and in their campaign literature, for Mr. Henderson takes the ground that the "National Policy" is the basis of the present prosperity. It is a curious thing that the National Policy, being in full force and effect for the

eight years prior to 1896, should have witnessed a depression which was in the last half of that period very pronounced, if it is now the father of all the prosperity and humming times in Canada. Mr. Paterson, minister of customs, is fond of answering the question by saying that if the National Policy is responsible for the present prosperity, it is clear that the Liberals know how to administer that policy much better than the Conservatives during the last half dozen years of their term of office.

THE Toronto News, after having worked up a great sensation over the Davis contract, on the four-fold false issue, very much grieved that the Opposition in Parliament was not reckless enough to take up the case presented by the Auditor General, and so in its issue of Aug. 2nd it lampoons the leader of the Opposition in a cartoon, representing Mr. R. L. Borden as losing his nerve at the top of a "leap-the-loop". They term him an artist who has got "cold feet," a low gambling expression, which we are astonished to see a paper making such great claims in the raising of the standard of public morality, apply to the leader of a great political party.

THE Toronto Weekly Sun says that the attitude of Mr. R. L. Borden towards the McLean amendments, declaring in favor of bringing the express companies under public control and for a graduated reduction in passenger rates, reveals him as more of a corporation attorney, than a champion of public ownership. As Mr. Borden is said by the Conservative press to be the exponent of public ownership for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, we are afraid that the Sun's view of the matter will not be popular with the Opposition. It is found in the issue of Aug. 1st on the front page.

FROM time to time we hear considerable in the press as to Newfoundland coming into the Dominion of Canada, but Premier Bond recently declared that he sees nothing to be gained by a union with Canada, and that the people of Newfoundland are averse to it. That gives the question its quietus. It was always said that the French Shore difficulty stood in the way,

but now that that question has been removed it is said by Sir Robert Bond that the interests of the people of Newfoundland are more concerned with reciprocal trade with the United States, than they are in adopting the policy of tariff preference with Canada, or any other British possession. If Sir Robert Bond was a member of the Canadian government he would be denounced as a traitor.

THE statement is going the rounds of the press of Canada extensively that under the Audit Act no Dominion cheque can be issued by the government at Ottawa unless the account has first been examined and approved by the Auditor General. This absurd statement is generally credited, and the belief is almost universal that it is literally true. Government could not be carried on under such circumstances. Each department pays its own accounts, and the accountant signs the cheque, which is countersigned by the Deputy Minister. That is the way nearly all the accounts of the Dominion government are paid. The duty of the Auditor General is to examine the accounts afterwards, and to see that they are charged to the right appropriation, and to scrutinize them generally. Every person knows that the

auditing of accounts in any business is done after payment. How could an account be audited before payment? The thing is a manifest paradox. There is just as much misconception about the Auditor General, as there was about the duties of the General Officer Commanding. The most regrettable thing is to see the number of editors who from ignorance of the manner in which our public affairs are conducted, circulate statements which mislead the people.

THE Chatham, N.B. World in its issue of Aug. 6th makes a demand for the appointment of a Northumberland county man to the vacant senatorship from that province. It says that the whole of the North Shore of New Brunswick is without representation in the Senate, and it names a particular gentleman who would satisfy the just claims of the Irish Catholics. It seems rather peculiar to outsiders for people in New Brunswick to make it a question as to whether the North Shore or any other shore was represented. If the vacancy spoken of is to go to an Irish Catholic, the most appropriate appointment that could be made would be the Hon. John Costigan.

STRIKE PERILS IN CARTOON.



"HOW LONG, O LORD, HOW LONG?"
—Warren in the Boston Herald.



"BOYS, BOYS, QUIT SOCKING THE BOAT!"
—Bradley in the Chicago News.

Federal Expenditure.

IN the House of Commons on Aug. 3rd, Mr. Bell moved an Opposition amendment, censuring the government for increased expenditure and taxation. Mr. R. L. Borden, Opposition leader, supported and voted for this resolution, although only a few weeks before, he had said from his place in the House that he thought there was justification for largely increased expenditures in a growing country. This is even a better answer from a Liberal point of view, than the Finance Minister's reply, that a general resolution deprecating, in a general way, large expenditures, could not consistently be moved by an Opposition, which had not objected to any of the items of expenditure, or to very few, when they had an opportunity of doing so in detail. It is quite true that although the Opposition required information, and make criticisms of items of expenditure, they very seldom, if ever, move to strike the items out; in fact on one occasion this session when an Opposition member declared an item of \$1,000 to be useless in the place where it was to be expended, the acting Minister of Public Works immediately said, "if the hon. member objects to the item we will strike

it out," and the member's only reply was "I dare you to strike it out." Thereupon the Minister moved to strike it out, and one member of the Opposition after another protested against the idea that their colleague should be held responsible for the striking out of the item. To condemn an aggregation of items in a wholesale resolution while each individual item had received practically the sanction of the Opposition, is, as Mr. Fielding very properly pointed out "a glaring inconsistency." We feel, however, that Mr. Borden's admission, which is of record in Hansard this session, that the growth of the country justified a reasonably large growth in expenditure, is, from a Liberal point of view, a pretty complete answer to any censures on this score. There is one thing about the large collections of revenue made by this government, they have been generously expended in different portions of the country, on public works and various kinds of public buildings, including accommodation in different places for the militia.

The motion by Mr. Bell was rejected on a vote of 48 yeas, and 90 nays, a government majority of 42.

A Tyrant for Finland.

PRINCE IVAN OBOLENSKY, the new governor-general of Finland, owes his distinction, says all refugee organs—newspapers or periodicals edited by individuals in exile from the Russian policy—to his energy in suppression. He has suppressed

in the course of a stern career, students' risings, peasant assemblies, and newspapers innumerable. Free Russia (London), revolutionary as it is, however, does not give the Prince a blacker character than does the London Standard:

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Prince Ivan Obolensky, the newly appointed governor-general of Finland, enjoys the unenviable reputation of being one of the most cruel and ruthless administrators in Russia. Born in 1845, he first served in the navy; and in the Russo-Turkish war he distinguished himself in Silistria by constructing a bridge over the Danube for the transport of Russian siege guns. Shortly after the war he left the naval service and obtained a civil post in Simbirsk which he held for seven years. About five years ago he was appointed governor of Charkoff, where he suppressed the students' riots and the agrarian movement by resorting to very harsh measures. He treated the peasants as revolutionaries and had them beaten by the Cossacks. He sent the Cossacks to the villages, and innocent and guilty alike were mercilessly beaten, and some of them to death. He imposed a fine of eight hundred thousand rubles on the offending communities, thus turning many peasants into beggars. After the suppression of the riots the governor turned his attention to political suspects, and arrest followed arrest, the result being that discontent increased and reached its climax in the attempt on the life of the hated prince in August, 1902. Prince Obolensky escaped with a slight wound. His would-be murderer was a member of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, which had passed sentence of death on the governor for his 'butcheries.'

Prince Obolensky, however, had now become a persona grata with the Czar, who, after the attempted assassination, addressed a telegram to him declaring his high appreciation of the governor's activity, and thanking God that his life had been spared. Shortly afterwards, Prince Obolensky was summoned to St. Petersburg, as he had been almost boycotted by Charkoff society.

The first result of the prince's appointment was the suppression of several newspapers in Finland, including the *Poivolehti* (Helsingfors), which seems to have been disrespectful to the memory of the late General Bobrikoff. Four or five more Finnish organs, it is said, are marked for suppression by Prince Obolensky, who, prior

to his departure for Helsingfors, received an elaborate letter of instructions from the Czar. "Strengthen in the minds of the Finnish people the conviction that their historic destinies are indissolubly bound up with those of Russia," wrote Nicholas II. The prince is further bidden to maintain for the welfare of Finland the 'local autonomy' she now enjoys. The entire epistle is amazing to the independence Belge (Brussels), one of the leading liberal organs of Europe:

"When we read attentively the Czar's autograph letter addressed to General Obolensky when he succeeded General Bobrikoff as governor-general of Finland, we are surprised at the lack of comprehension persisted in by the ruling classes of Russia in the face of the events transpiring in the Grand Duchy. The Czar declares that the local administration and the legislation enjoyed by Finland since her union with Russia may be retained. Would it not be supposed that St. Petersburg is unaware that the Finnish constitution has been ignored, that all liberty has been taken away from this long free people, who never misused their freedom? And when Nicholas II. adds that authority, without weakening, must strive to knit Finland more closely to the empire, it is not easy to understand what new menaces are made to the Finnish nation?

"We readily understand that it is desired in St. Petersburg to unify all the parts of the vast Russian empire, impart a character in common to the governments in the different provinces, create a solid mass that foreign influence can no longer permeate. But what can not be justified is the desire to accomplish all this in a reactionary spirit, and what can not be approved is the abstraction from a wise and safe people, which has never abused the freedom accorded it, of rights which it has never exceeded. In no circumstances, under no pretext of unifying a system of government, may a people be caused to retrograde when it has become sufficiently enlightened by its own efforts to have the control of its own affairs entrusted to it."

For Greed of Gold.

Written by J. S. FLETCHER.

JAMES RUTHERFORD had come back—come home—to Slowford, and the countryside rang with the news. Had there been a great war in progress, its most exciting events would have paled into insignificance before the fact that James' foot was once more upon his native heath. There was more excitement and more commotion when it was known that James had arrived than if the village crier had gone around to herald the approach of a circus or menagerie. No one had ever expected to see James again, unless in hopeless poverty and fluttering rags; but here he was, and it was obvious that poverty and James were not even acquainted. It was a marvellous fact, but still a fact, that Slowford wondered at it and talked of it, and rolled it over on its intellectual palate like a dainty morsel.

Ten years previously, James Rutherford, at that time a young man of three-and-twenty, departed from Slowford, leaving behind him the prettiest of bad characters. From his extreme youth upwards he had always been in hot water; he had terrorized the schoolmaster, and frightened the parson; there was not an orchard that he had not robbed, nor a game preserve that he had not made inroads upon. He would never work; he would make love to every girl—and there were many—willing to listen to his soft speech, and he was as ready for a fight as for a drink. Sometimes he was lucky at the race-meetings and would bring home gold in his pockets—that was the sure prelude to a carousal at the Red Pig, in which all and sundry were invited to share. He was a wild, bad lot, said everybody (except some of the women, whom he had deluded with his handsome face and wicked eyes), and he would end his days in the workhouse or on the gallows. James, however, appeared to be quite indifferent to public opinion, and when he finally cleared out it was with no regret on his part, and with a good deal of relief on his neighbours'. And nobody over expected to see him again.

Yet here he was home once more after

ten years' absence. He went off, a rather down-at-heel, mocking, dare-devil lad; he returned a very carefully attired, prosperous-looking, well-fed gentleman, with sober manners and an air of distinction. The truth soon leaked out. James Rutherford had drifted to South Africa, had struck oil in the shape of diamonds, had seized his chance with the tenacity of genius, and was now a millionaire. A millionaire in ten years! There was no doubt about it—the parson and the doctor had seen his name in the papers. And his arrival at his native place was marked by events which only happen when millionaires are on the scene. Mr. Rutherford—plain James no longer—went round the neighbourhood and paid off numerous debts which he had contracted during his youthful days—paid them with handsome interest. He further discharged some obligations incurred long years before by his father, who, like the pre-reformed James, had not been very particular about money matters. He gained golden opinions everywhere, the parson almost wept in speaking of him, and the schoolmaster rejoiced that he had had the privilege of teaching him arithmetic. James did things in great style; it was evident that there was nothing mean about him. And the apotheosis of his glory was arrived at when he invited all the principal folk of the village—parson, schoolmaster, farmers, tradesmen—to dine with him in the big room of the Red Pig, while all the rest of the folk, even down to the babes, were regaled to supper in the coach-house outside.

There was much talk of Mr. Rutherford and his glories in the village that day, and the honoured guests who arrived at the Red Pig a while before the banquet was ready shared in it to the full; what other subject could they talk of but that? Everything was done handsomely; gentlemen were invited to take appetisers—sherry and bitters, gin and bitters, and what not—until dinner was ready, and all at Mr. Rutherford's expense. And everybody did, seeing that it cost nothing, and tongues wagged freely

"It must be costing him a deal of money, all this here feasting and merry-making," said one guest.

"It'll be nothing to him," remarked another. "No more to him than the price of a pint of ale to you and me."

"They do say," said a third, "that he carries thousands of pounds about him wherever he goes."

"And that's true," said another guest, sinking his voice to a whisper. "The landlord yonder told me yesterday that he had to go up to Mr. Rutherford's bedroom one day when he was out, and there on the dressing-table he found a packet of Bank of England notes—just lying about like. Eleven thousand pounds there were! The landlord locked 'em up, and gave 'em to him when he came in, and said 'he didn't ought to leave money lying about."

"I'm among honest folk," says James, and didn't seem to care. And the gold that he carries, it 'ud buy a farm!"

"Well, it's fair amazing," said another. "I wish I had his money or half of it. But here he comes—sh!"

Mr. Rutherford, faultlessly attired in evening dress, and wearing a single magnificent diamond in his shirt front, did the honors of the evening with great ease, cordiality and evident pleasure. Never had such a repast been served in the history of the village. There were dishes which the simple Slowford people had never heard of, and wines which they would never taste again. There were delicacies hard to procure, and liquors and coffee that made most of them wonder if they were dreaming. There were speeches by Mr. Rutherford who spoke very modestly and feelingly; and by the vicar, who voiced the pride of the village in this, its distinguished son, and by the oldest man present who said that he'd seen a many amazing things in his day, but this was the amazingest of them all. Then came a visit to the coach-house where there were more speeches, and some songs, and singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow" from the assembled company, and then James and his guests returned to the great room, where cigars of the best brands and spirits and similar creature comforts were laid

out, and settled themselves for an evening's conviviality. The conviviality chiefly consisted, however, in listening to James. He took good care to see that every man's glass was constantly replenished that a fresh cigar was always at his hand and that everybody was comfortable. And he talked—talked well and easily not in any braggart fashion but in modest, assured tones, after the fashion of a man who knows that he has proved himself. He told them of his adventure, of his work, of the coming of success, of the building up of a great business; and, at the request of the parson, he entered into a learned, but simply-worded disquisition on the prospects of diamond-mining in South Africa, and displayed such marvellous knowledge of it in its scientific and financial aspects that his audience broke up in amazement at his ability and cleverness.

"A remarkably shrewd and able man," said the parson as he shook hands at the vicarage gate with his churchwarden and two or three of his principal parishioners who had walked through the village with him.

"A very able man—a Napoleon of finance!"

"He seems to know what he's talking about" said the miller.

"It seems a better paying business than farming," said a farmer.

"Payin'!" exclaimed the vicar. "My dear friend there is no doubt that a new Eldorado is being opened up in South Africa. If I were—er, a man of means, and wished to become wealthy, I would stake every penny I could lay hands on in mining investments. The returns are simple enormous, as we may learn from the case of our worthy friend and host this evening."

And the rest of them secretly agreed, and went home contrasting their own hard and toiling lives with that of a man who appeared to be able to coin money at his ease, and the old spirit of contrariness began to work.

Next day Mr. James Rutherford had many callers. Each caller had the same story to tell. He had saved money, and money had come to him from his forbears.

(they were a thrifty, hard-working, self-denying people, the Slowford folk), and they would like to know if Mr. Rutherford could not invest it for them in his own concerns or in something similar, that would bring in heavy interest. And with each Mr. Rutherford talked carefully and in business-like fashion, and he went away feeling assured that he had been conversing with a master mind in finance, and that his money would be safe and he himself a rich man. And he naturally told all his friends what he was going to do, and everybody applauded, because everybody was going to do the something.

There were a good many people of means and resources in and about Slowford, and there was scarcely one who did not entrust almost the whole of his savings and property to James Rutherford during the next few days. The vicar had a small private fortune invested in railway stock, paying 3½ per cent; he realized and re-invested in James Rutherford, with notions of getting at least 30 per cent. The vicar's wife also had a nice little capital invested in gilt-edged securities—that, too, flowed into James' coffers. And at the end of ten days Slowford had entrusted some fifteen thousand pounds in hard cash to the man whom it had once regarded as a hopeless ne'er-do-weel.

On the last day Miss Pamela Spriggs came to see Mr. Rutherford. He remembered her as a middle-aged spinster who had always had a kind word for him in the days when all other Slowford folk had looked at him askance, and who earlier on in life had given him tarts and apples. He caused her to be admitted. Miss Spriggs had grown ancient, but she was still shy and nervous and old young in

manner. Mr. Rutherford made her drink a glass of port before he inquired her business—he guessed what it was before she spoke.

"I—I wished to speak to you, Mr. Rutherford, about a little business matter," said Miss Spriggs. "I—I have some little money since poor Jane died—two thousand pounds it is Mr. Rutherford, and it's lying in the bank just now, and hearing of your good fortune, I thought perhaps—"

Mr. Rutherford rose from his seat and paced the room, apparently deep in thought. He came up to Miss Spriggs' side and spoke rather brusquely.

"I'm sorry I can't do anything for you, just now ma'am," he said; "my hands are full—quite full. But as soon as I hear of a good opening I will write to you about it. Good-day, ma'am."

He bowed her out, and came back to his desk.

"It'll be a long time before she gets that letter," he said, laughing sardonically.

"No, no!—not old Spriggs. The others are fair game, but she isn't"

The next day Mr. James Rutherford left Slowford. He was accompanied to the station by nearly all the population of the place, and was given a hearty send-off. But Slowford has never seen or heard of him again. There have been no dividends; there has been nothing indeed but weeping and wailing and deep curses!—always excepting thankfulness from Miss Spriggs, who frequently remarks that it was very fortunate that Mr. Rutherford was too much engaged to deal with her little affair, and who is firmly convinced that he was a good man who must have been murdered and robbed on his arrival in London.