

# EVENTS

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## *The Separate School Agitation.*

**W**E have refrained from expressing any opinion on the educational clauses of the Autonomy Bill so far, until the subject was studied and threshed out. Marked attention was called to the question on Wednesday by the resignation of Mr. Sifton the minister of the Interior, who retired from the Laurier Administration ostensibly because he could not support or defend the clauses of the bill.

It is not difficult to understand Mr. Sifton's action on the hypothesis that he was looking for an excuse to get out. He has in fact had it in his mind for two years to retire from the cabinet. But aside from this he has been the administrator of the Territories for over seven years, and made no protest against the separate schools when they were confirmed in the Act consolidating the educational Ordinances of the Territories. This bill does more than continue the system sanctioned by the local authorities. It is contended that the question should be left to the new provinces. There has never been any agitation among the people of the new provin-



HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON.

ces against the school system established in the Territories. There was ten years ago a protest on behalf of the Roman Catholics urging that the system worked an injustice to them, but a report by the then minister of justice, Sir John Thompson, did not support that view. There are, it is understood, about sixteen separate schools in the Territories to about 1,000 public schools. This does not sound alarming. Mr Sifton was not alarmed, and never introduced a bill repealing the separate school enactment. He never asked a supporter to do so, if he could not himself without the consent of his colleagues.

It may, therefore, be inferred that Mr. Sifton would be willing to continue the old system, and that his main objection is to the sub-sections of clause 16 under which there is an express provision for the application of public moneys to the support of separate schools. These sub-sections are objectionable to the bulk of the people in the Dominion, and furnish Mr. Sifton with ample justification for his course. Strike out these sections from the Bill and the chances are that Mr. Sifton would resume his portfolio. This would leave the minority with the right to separate schools conferred by the Act of 1875.

The view taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Minister of Justice is that on the admission of the new provinces it is incumbent on parliament, under the Canadian constitution, to give to the minority the educational rights preserved to them by the British North America Act of 1867. In 1875 the Hon. George Brown told Parliament that while he was personally opposed to granting separate schools in the Territories, nevertheless he was of opinion that if parliament did grant them they could not afterwards be taken away. The government is not now proposing to bestow separate schools on the minority in

the new provinces. They are there now and by the constitutional law under which the new provinces are being erected the minority are declared to have the right to separate schools.

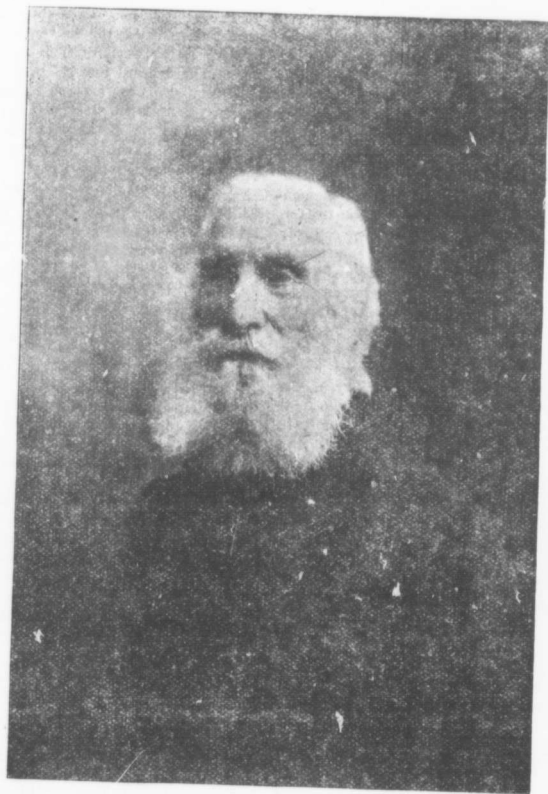
The announcement in the House on Wednesday of Mr. Sifton's resignation was an occasion of great interest. The Prime Minister stated that Mr. Sifton had resigned on Feb. 27 on the ground that he could not agree to the education clause of the Autonomy Bill. On Feb. 28 Sir Wilfrid wrote in reply that there was no alternative but to accept his resignation. There were on both sides expressions of regret at the severance of official relations. Mr. Sifton made a brief statement to the House, in the course of which it appeared that he only learned the nature of clause 16 on his return from the Southern States after the bill had been introduced. It was evident that he resented the introduction of the bill before his return.

A lively discussion ensued. Mr. Foster the acting leader of the opposition gave a very excellent exhibition of a biting tongue. To his mind the circumstances looked as if it was the intention to get rid of Mr. Sifton and he invited the Prime Minister to say whether it was also Mr. Fielding's intention to retire.

Mr. Leighton McCarthy, who has been elected in Simcoe largely on the school issue, announced that he was, like Mr. Sifton, opposed to clause 16. This was offset by a declaration from Mr. Guthrie in favor of the clause and in favor of the bill.

Col. Sam Hughes, in the course of the discussion, said that if the Northwest Rebellion in 1865 was justified in the box of the West would be justified in shouldering muskets to resist this tyranny. Such language sounds very foolish in view of the fact that the "tyranny" consists of continuing a system of Public and Separate Schools under which these same boys have grown up in the last 30 years.

EVENTS.



HON. R. W. SCOTT.

Canadian Secretary of State who celebrated his 89th birthday last week.

## EVENTS

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ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor

VOL. 7. MARCH 4, 1905. No. 9

**T**HE cost of the British Mission to Tibet is now officially stated to be \$4,000,000. If the burden of empire is getting to be too great for the people of the United Kingdom to bear, as Mr. Chamberlain asserts, why do they put up with such expeditions as this? And if Canada is to contribute to the military expenditure of the empire would we be given a veto on such expenditure? If not we would be taxed for expenditure over which we had no control, a principle that no Canadian statesman would stand for a moment. The undertaking which the Dominion government has given to take over the defences of Halifax and Esquimaux is not open to any serious objection, as Canada is willing to defend her own shores and at the same time to afford Great Britain every facility in the use of these great naval bases for the British navy. At the same time it ought to afford practical work for the engineering graduates of the Kingston Military College. Canada is not unwilling to contribute to imperial defence, but it must be done along lines capable of being defended in a federal parliament on grounds of British constitutional usage.

**T**HE Standard Oil Company has a monopoly in the Kansas oil fields, and Kansas is endeavoring to break the power of that corporation over the wells and markets of that State. "The trust has all the pipe lines in the State, and it is the only refiner," we are told by the Philadelphia Ledger; "consequently it could and did charge the independent producers just what it pleased for the conveyance of the crude oil to its own refineries, and paid only what it pleased for the crude oil. Thus the producers were squeezed so hard that they either had to sell out the oil field to the trust at its own price or sell oil at a loss." Backed by public opinion, the Kansas legislature has proceeded to deal with the monopoly by passing new legisla-

tion. One act has just been signed by the Governor, providing for a State refinery having an output of one thousand barrels per day, operated by convict labor." Another new law makes the Standard's pipe lines for the conveyance of oil "common carriers," and not only fixes maximum rates for the conveyance of oil, but prohibits discrimination. As soon as the Standard heard that all the power of the State was being arrayed against it, it proceeded "to teach the State of Kansas a lesson," as one of the Standard officials is reported to have put it, by ordering a suspension of all operations in Kansas, and the crude oil producers were in consequence compelled to stop pumping oil and to discharge their help. The Kansas situation is taken as an entering wedge for the prosecution of a national investigation of the Standard Oil Company. On February 15 the House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by Mr. Campbell, of Kansas, providing for the investigation of the corporation from top to bottom.

**T**HE Canadian Northern R. R. amalgamating bill has been introduced into the House of Commons and given its first reading. It is a bill of considerable bulk and may well be as it is one of great importance. It provides practically legislature authority for connecting various branches of this great system. It is understood in the financial world that the bonds of this company find a ready sale in the London and New York money markets. The remarkable success of recent operations have evidently met with a welcome recognition.

**T**HE presentation by Liberal senators to Hon. R. W. Scott on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his birth was a well deserved compliment to the Secretary of State, who is also the Government leader of the Senate. Mr. Scott is a very hard working minister, always in his place in the Senate and always extending to his colleagues in the House that courtesy which is so becoming to an assembly of this kind. The attendance of the Prime Minister and other colleagues of the Secretary of State must have been gratifying to him.

## Mr. Balfour's Policy.

**M**R. JOHN MORLEY, addressing his constituents some weeks ago, offered a handsome donation to any one of them who could put down on a sheet of note paper Prime Minister Balfour's views on that fiscal question which has agitated Great Britain ever since Mr. Joseph Chamberlain propounded it nearly two years ago. "I do not know what Mr. Gladstone would have said if anybody had asked him to put any opinion within the compass of a sheet of note paper," retorted Mr. Balfour when his turn came to address his own constituents. "If I adequately appreciate the soul of that great man, no ordinary note paper would have been adequate even for a much smaller subject." Whereupon the Prime Minister confessing that he lacked Gladstone's "amplitude of statement" and "eloquence of delivery," took up Mr. Morley's challenge by exhibiting a half sheet of note paper on which was written, he said, "the essence, and outline" of his policy. This he read aloud to the audience, advising all present to claim Mr. Morley's promised donation. What Mr. Balfour read is thus quoted in the *London Standard*:

"Firstly, I desire such an alteration in our fiscal system as will give us a freedom of action, impossible while we hold ourselves bound by the maxima that no taxation should be imposed except for revenue. I desire this freedom, in the main, for three reasons: It will strengthen our hands in any negotiations by which we may hope to lower foreign hostile tariffs. It may enable us to protect the fiscal independence of those colonies which desire to give us preferential treatment. It may be useful where we wish to check the importation of those foreign goods which, because they are bounty-fed or tariff-protected abroad, are sold below cost price

here. Such importations are ultimately as injurious to the consumer as they are immediately ruinous to the producer.

"Secondly, I desire closer commercial union with the colonies, and I do so because I desire closer union in all its best modes, and because this particular mode is intrinsically of great importance, and has received much colonial support. I also think it might produce great and growing commercial advantages both to the colonies and the mother country by promoting freer trade between them.

"No doubt such commercial union is beset with many difficulties. These can best be dealt with by a colonial conference, provided its objects are permitted to be discussed unhampered by limiting instructions. I recommend, therefore, that the subject shall be referred to a conference on those terms.

"Fourthly, and lastly, I do not desire to raise home prices for the purpose of aiding home productions."

This was triumphantly hailed by the newspaper supporters of Mr. Balfour as a sufficient answer to journals like the *London Spectator* and the *London Westminster Gazette*, which have been saying for months that Mr. Balfour is so evasive that no one can tell whether he favors the Chamberlain preferential tariff scheme or not. "We should not dream of interfering with Mr. Balfour's lucidity," replied the *London Morning Post* to this. "We therefore leave our readers to answer for themselves, if they can, the momentous question whether Mr. Balfour is on Mr. Chamberlain's side or against him. If Mr. Balfour is as clear as he asserts himself to be, there cannot be any doubt on the subject." But much doubt on the subject is still expressed, as may be seen from the opposition press. "Mr. Balfour made a

great parade of frankness," asserts the London Chronicle. "He even produced the sheet of note paper which Mr. Morley called for and read out his points, one, two, three and four. But at the end of it all the real nature and extent of the Prime Minister's policy and its relations to Mr. Chamberlain's policy are still matters of conjecture." "Mr. Balfour dealt with the question of free trade in a not very admirable temper," thinks the London News,

"and with his invariable, and invincible, and, we are afraid we must add, its intentional obscurity. All of which, it will be seen, throws no light upon the rumored approaching dissolution of Parliament and the prophecy that a general election is impending. Upon the whole subject the English newspaper afford such a medley of conjecture and partizan opinion that no definite idea can be extracted.

## His 101st Anniversary.

**T**HE venerable Senator Wark celebrated his 101st birthday at Fredericton, N.B. Feb. 19. He received a telegram from the



SENATOR WARK.

Speaker of the Senate informing him that that body had by unanimous resolution instructed him to convey their congratula-

tions. The New Brunswick members of the House of Commons also telegraphed their congratulations. Senator Wark continues to enjoy good health and intellectual vigor. He rises regularly at 8 o'clock each morning and retires at 9 p. m. He is able to move about unassisted and eats his three meals a day. He has not been out of the house this winter, being afraid to expose himself to the cold weather but he does not allow the time to hang heavily on his hands. He reads the newspapers regularly, and personally attends to his correspondence which is by no means light.

The senator is his own barber and shaves himself twice a week and makes a good job of it too. Up to a year ago he used an ordinary razor but he was induced to abandon it for a safety, which he now uses.

It is doubtful if the senator will journey to Ottawa to take his seat. Last year he went to the capital after Easter adjournment and possibly he may follow the same plan this year if the session is prolonged. Up to the present time he has not allowed the matter to trouble him very much.

The numerous friends and admirers of the worthy centenarian will join in the wish that he will continue to enjoy health and happiness for many years to come.

## References to the Supreme Court

THE question as to the powers of Provincial Legislatures in Canada to regulate Sunday labor and to pass Sabbath observance laws was referred to the Supreme Court of Canada by an order of the Governor-General in Council under the provisions of a statute. In the argument of the case some of the judges made certain observations. The Globe took umbrage at some of the observations and to make it clear we reproduce the Globe's extract as follows:

"Judge Sedgewick—If we hold here that the draft bill which is part of this case cannot be passed by a Provincial Legislature, do you want us to answer the questions attached?

"Mr. Paterson said that question 4 was part of the draft bill. Question 5 deals with the right of Provincial Legislatures to impose conditions relating to Sunday observance in the charters of incorporation of their own creation.

"Judge Sedgewick—When that question comes before me I will answer it.

"Mr. Paterson—It has come up now, my Lord.

"Judge Sedgewick—The Governor-in-Council has no right to ask me how you can recover a promissory note. That is practically what you are asking.

"Judge Nesbitt—Now, what right has the Governor-in-Council to ask what charters a Provincial Government can grant?

"Mr. Paterson said the question was, Could they impose any restrictions in regard to charters of their own creation?

"Judge Nesbitt—What right has the Governor-in-Council to know about it?

"Mr. Paterson—I cannot answer that because I am, not the Governor-in-Council. Surely it comes within their power to refer to the Supreme Court.

"Judge Nesbitt—Such questions as that?

"Mr. Paterson—The question is, Can they govern their own charters? Can they mould their own acts in such a way as to prevent their creatures or their companies from running on Sundays?

"Judge Nesbitt—They had better mould them first.

"Judge Sedgewick—Are Shakespeare's plays immoral? The Governor-in-Council

has asked us what can a Provincial Legislature put in a Provincial act? It is a piece of impertinence, if I might be bold enough to say so, on the part of the Governor-in-Council to ask what power a Provincial Legislature may exercise.

"Mr. Paterson—I could not speak for that, my Lord, because he has done it.

"Judge Sedgewick—And it certainly never could have been intended that the Dominion Government would exercise an impertinent, an unnecessary power like that."

In the Globe's view this language is unbecoming to Supreme Court and indignant.

In the view of that paper the members were in contempt of the Crown. To our mind the Globe entirely misapprehends the situation. The Government in making the reference was acting on the authority of a statute and the question asked by the judges quoted above was not as to the dignity or authority of the Crown, but as to whether the Government had a right under the proper construction of the statute to send such questions to the Supreme Court of Canada. The right is limited and when Judge Sedgewick made the remark that was evidently in his mind was the construction that certain of those questions were not pertinent to the statutory authority. There is no contempt of the Crown involved here.

The habit of members of this court to express opinions of this kind is not a new one. The question, what right has the Government to do certain things has been asked in this court time and again, and surely if this is the highest court in the country the members of it may be trusted to know what language is proper to employ, especially in dealing with a case of a semi-political character referred to them under an extraordinary law.

The expression of an opinion would not decide any action at law and would not be binding on anybody. For this reason the court has never liked these references, as

they feel that their function is not that of an advisory body to the crown but an appellate court to determine the issues of a case brought before them in an appeal from the lower courts. The lack of patience references began from the first reference and was displayed in every subsequent one. What has happened is that the Globe not being familiar with these facts and happening to obtain a shorthand report from Ottawa was innocently shocked.

On another occasion when the court was asked to give a stated opinion in reply to a reference from the governor in council, the present chief justice of the court remarked that it did not matter what opinion the Supreme Court expressed in the matter as the case would go to the Judicial Committee in London, and the opinion of that board was the important matter and not the opinion of the Supreme Court of Canada. So long as the government of Canada is free to go to the Judicial Committee in England with these constitutional questions the judges of the Supreme Court may be pardoned if they, perhaps, think that the Governor in Council ought to go there direct.

On Monday, Feb. 27, a majority of the judges publicly answered the questions. The three main questions submitted were answered in the negative and the substance of the judgment is that legislation regarding the observance of the Lord's day rests with the federal parliament rather than with the provincial legislatures. Mr. Justice Idington refrained from making any answer to the questions, on the ground that the government had no right to submit the questions to the court.

As to the fourth and remaining questions the majority of the court abstained from giving any answer, but they really hinged upon the decision in the previous ones. It is expected that in view of the above judgment the Lord's Day Alliance will now renew its application to the Dominion parliament for a bill embodying its suggestions as to the limitation of Sabbath work.

The following are the questions referred to the Court:

1. Has the legislature of a province au-

thority to enact a statute in the terms of the annexed draft bill?

2. If the provisions of the draft bill are beyond the jurisdiction of a province in part only

(a) Which of the sections or which of the provinces thereof are ultra vires, and

(b) To what extent are they ultra vires?

3. (a) Upon the repeal of Consolidated Statute of Upper Canada, chapter 104, would it be competent to the legislature of Ontario to enact the said draft bill in its entirety or in part, and

(b) If in part only what sections or provisions thereof and to what extent?

4. Has a province jurisdiction to legislate prohibiting or regulating labor so as to prevent any work, business or labor from being performed within the province on the first day of the week commonly called "Sunday" except work of necessity or mercy and except work or labor of the character and to the extent comprehended in section 2 of the draft bill.

5. Has a province power to restrict the operations of companies of its own creation to six days in each week by provisions in the charter or acts of incorporation of such companies, or otherwise, so as to render it unlawful for them, their servants or agents to do any work, business or labor within the province on the first day of the week?

6. Are the following classes of companies or corporations created by the Dominion or any of them, and if so, which and the servants and agents thereof, subject to the laws of the province in which they operate in so far as the prohibition or regulation of labor upon the first day of the week is concerned,—

(a) Those whose works are declared to be for the general advantage of Canada, but authorized to operate within one province only and whose operations are confined to such provinces.

(b) Those to whom "The Companies' Act, 1902" (Dominion) applies:

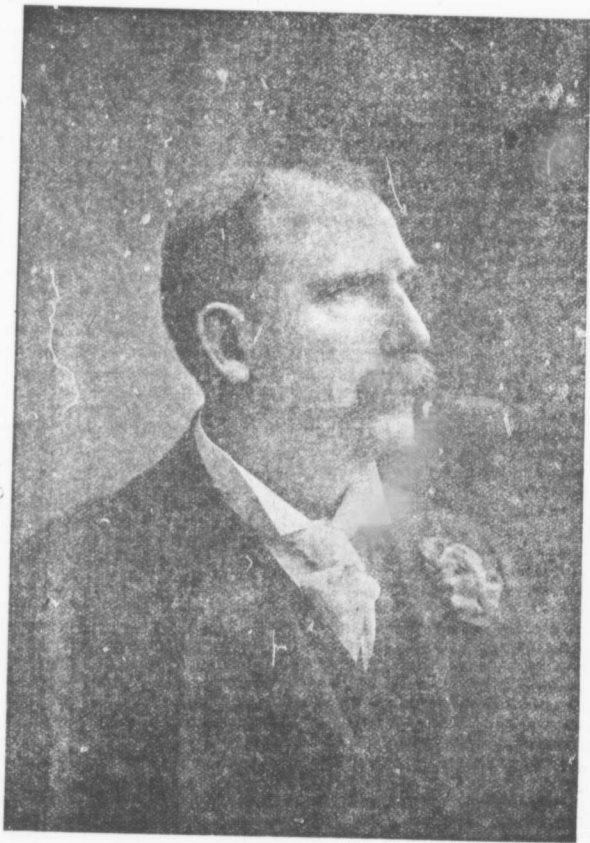
(c) Bank and banking companies:

(d) Companies for carrying on the business of insurance or the business of a loan company.

(e) Companies whose purpose and objects are the construction and operation of any of the works or undertakings mentioned in classes (a), (b) and (c) of the 10th enumeration of section 92 of the British North America Act other than those falling under clause (a) hereof.



EVENTS



MR. E. F. CLARKE, M.P.

Whose serious illness is causing anxiety among his friends.

## An Indictment of Nicholas II.

THAT indictment of Nicholas II. by a member of the Russian official circle, to which the Quarterly Review (London) gave publicity, not long ago, was, it is averred, submitted to Prime Minister Balfour in the form of proof sheets. Mr. Balfour is quoted on good authority as having expressed the opinion that the article should not be published. If this anecdote be true, Mr. Balfour may be unpleasantly impressed by a fresh indictment of Nicholas II. by the same bureaucratic pen, although the medium of publication this time is The National Review (London), organ of that school of British diplomacy which desires the admission of Great Britain to the Franco-Russian alliance. The anonymous writer, evidently a Russian, fills thirty pages of the London periodical in coming to the conclusion that autocracy is "at its last gasp" and that "whichever else may survive the coming storm, that monstrosity must surely go." His conception of the crisis is introduced in these words:

"Tokens of the coming storm are now many and unmistakable, and cries are heard that the Russian ship of state is in danger. But they are the fears of men of little faith. It is not the ship of state that is in peril. That stout vessel will weather worse storms than any as yet experienced in Europe, not excepting the tempest of 1789. Manned by a hardy, buoyant, resourceful crew, it has nought to fear. Nothing is now at issue beyond the present trip and the rights and duties of the skipper. For compass and chart have been put aside and we are drifting towards rocks and sandbanks. Of the crew—with no goal to attract, no commander to inspire them—some are indifferent and many sluggish, while the most active are preparing to mutiny. They all merge

their welfare in the safety of the ship, and as a consequence would persuade, or if necessary compel the captain to take a pilot on board. It is in that temper—for which history may perhaps find a less harsh term than criminal—that the real and only danger lies."

There is some praise for the Czar, even from this critic. Nicholas II. is styled "a model husband" and "a tender father," while "a most obliging disposition also marks his intercourse with foreign dynasties." Short work, too, is made by this well informed authority of the Hamlet theory of Nicholas II's character. His Majesty is nothing, we are told, if not decisive "There is not one minister now in the Emperor's council chamber sufficiently magnetic in manner or dazzling in mind to fascinate the will or dazzle the intellect of his imperial master." Pobiedonostseff never did it, nor Witt, nor Von Plehve. The grand dukes alone can be said to sway him and that only to a certain extent. To quote:

"Nicholas II. therefore, is his own master, and is himself answerable for his men and measures, such being his imperial will and pleasure. If some of the men are unclean monsters—grand ducal harpies—who rob the people of their substance, and "break the records" of vice and crime without drawing down punishment and provoking censure, he who tolerates, shields, and betriends them shares the odium of their misdeeds, and participates in their risks. If the Czar robs Finland of her liberties, despoils Armenian schools and churches, suppresses the nationality of the Poles, and keeps the Russians more miserable than any foreign element of our population, we may discuss his motives, but we can not question his responsibility. At the same time, it is a fact,

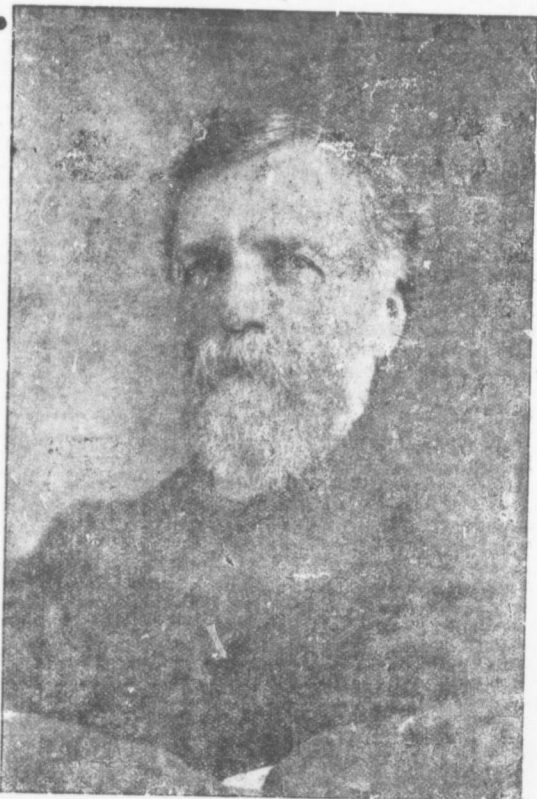
which should be noted as an extenuating circumstance that in everything he does and leaves undone he is strongly, but as a rule, indirectly influenced by his uncles, cousins and nephews, the imperial drones, who are ever buzzing about him. They seem endowed with a special faculty of calling forth what is least estimable in the Emperor's character. They surround him with a moral atmosphere charged with mephitic and stupefying vapors, which bring on a morbid mood, and then the slightest touch from without provokes the acts which cause our people to wince and writhe.

"Only of late has it become known that Nicholas II at the head of his grand ducal satellites has long been his own adviser and his own Government, and from that moment the lines of his portrait gained in sharpness. For he now stands forth as the author of the present sanguinary war, the marplot of the military staff and the main obstacle to the peace to which he has so often publicly done lip-worship. In that mock heroic role of l'Etat c'est moi, Nicholas II. is also recognized as the one hindrance to popular reforms at home."

All the blunder and shortcomings attributed to Alexeieff's mismanagement of the negotiations with Japan and to Alexeieff's subsequent interference with Kuropatkin should be credited to the Czar

himself, we are told. Alexeieff "could not have done anything else; it was his duty." These circumstances are declared by the anonymous Russian to be within his knowledge. The Czar is accused of a defective sense of honor in some pecuniary transactions and of indifference to slaughter and callousness to the spread of human misery.' On the last point we read: "My own friends and acquaintances who have seen him in many moods, and perhaps at his best and worst, report the same defect. 'I informed him of the lamentable state of the district,' one of them said to me lately,' and drew a harrowing picture of men and women steeped in misery, racked with pain, but he only answered: "Yes, I know, I know," and bowed me out.' Those words, 'Yes, I know, I know,' have figured at the finis uttered by the Czar at the close of history's chapters on the Finnish Constitution, the Armenian church and schools, the nationality of the Poles, the liberty of conscience of our own people. 'I know, I know!' 'Would to heaven he realized what he knows! Men, like trees, fall on their leaning side, and in the Czar's case the leaning side is not an inclination to assuage human suffering, otherwise there would have been less misery during the great famine and far less bloodshed during the present reign.'"

EVENTS.



HON. J. ISRAEL TARTE P.C.

Who occupies his old seat in the Press Gallery this session.

# BILL TENDERFOOT

BY H. J. KLINE.



**A**N advertisement in the morning paper caught the eye of a wayfarer, who for want of a better name can be known as William Williams. Who he was and whence he came makes no difference to the author and could have no possible interest to any reader. Suffice it to say that he was alone in a great city, had sold all the goods his customers would take; to say nothing of the stuffing he gave the orders that he might make the house believe that business was getting so good on his route that nothing but a stiff raise in salary or a hunching of the commission rate could possibly keep him in the tread mill another year. He happened to be in one of the few towns where he had no sweetheart. How that eventuated is not for me to say as I know nothing whatever about it except that one of the boys told me. The advertisement which I had almost forgotten having mentioned, told about the great trotters and pacers that were to race that day at the famous track in the suburbs, the rich purses for which they were to struggle and the easy means of transportation. He decided to give the entertainment a trial, for, as it happened, he had never been inside the gates of a track given over to harness racing. Wise, as his kind usually is, about all other sports, the giddy trotter and the more giddy pacer had never before attracted a mite of his attention. He could keep the score of a

base-ball game as accurately as Tim Murname. At a foot ball game he saw every play almost before it was made, and could root the best college rooter that ever lived clear out of the pasture and over into the next county. He knew golf as well backwards as forwards and had been the champion of his summer resort club for over five seasons. A form sheet for a running meeting was as plain to him as a primer. But his ignorance of the harness horses was almost as appalling as his inscriptions concerning the meaning of the inscriptions on a procession of ancient catacombs.

But the advertisement had interested him and in due course he found himself aboard an express train bound for pastures new—to him. He rode in the smoking car and the horse conversation there mystified him until he had a headache. He heard a lot of talk about "not ready until the next town," "could have won at the other place but the betting was not just right—it ought to be better here;" "that was fixed, we wanted to win and get the mark but the old man thought there was more in it the other way" And a lot more, if ever you journeyed with the wise men, you have heard so often that you wonder if there will ever be anything new in the way of smoking car conversation on the way to the races.

William Williams drank it all in. Something about it suddenly created in him a

thirst for knowledge. Somehow the conversation had a hazy sort of meaning and he almost concided that he had not the faintest idea w. at it referred to except that it had to do with horses that were to be raced at the track where he intended to spend the afternoon. While he was still listening and speculating the train stopped at the track gate. Clawing a hot cinder from under his collar, digging a chunk out of his eye and endeavoring to wipe some of the coal dust and other grime from his once fair face, Williams followed the crowd to the gate, bought a ticket and found a seat in the grand stand. He bought a score card and began the work of learning his very first lesson about harness racing. It is my good fortune to have a copy of the letter he wrote to one of his friends in which he endeavored to tell what he saw and how he saw it that day. Without any alteration or amendment it is as follows:

Pass the Prunes Hotel  
Only first class house in the city  
Commercial travelers a specialty.

Seward, D. c. 11, 1904.

Lawrence, Stringer, New York, N. Y.

Dear Larry: I have been putting this off until I could get to a quiet place. Have found it all right, all right and no mistake. The house sent me up here to interest a new customer. The place is so quiet that even the lodgings have packed up and left. I saw a girl at the post office this afternoon who was positively stunning. Had just puckered my mouth to ask the postmaster her name and her father's bank account, when I saw her sailing down the pike in a red automobile. The next train out of here goes at four o'clock in the morning, and it is now 2 p. m., so you can see where I get off. There used to be a poker game here but they tell me a man from up the river (whatever that is) tapped the gang for twent one day last February and broke it up. The only pool table in town has all but two of its pockets torn out and they have closed the croquet grounds for the winter. That's what gives you the letter. I intend to tell you as much as I can remember about my first

trip to the harness races where they have those funny contraptions all over the horses that tie their legs together and keep their heads pointing to the sky, and hitch them to those funny sulks that look like corn planters. I found my way to the track all right and got a seat in the grand stand, right next to a screamer of a dresser who



"RIGHT NEXT TO A SCREAMER."

looked like ready money and had enough diamonds on to start a loan office on Broadway. It was lucky that I got painted near her for she knows all about this Chinese puzzle that they call three-in-five, and the way she helped me to understand it was as comforting as a pitcher of ice water in what George Ade calls "the cold, gray dawn of the morning after." She was a regular gold mine of harness-horse information, at least, that's the way it struck me. But if she had given me a gold plated falsehood every time she opened her mouth I would not have known it. They ought to start schools of instruction for this game all over the country. But maybe the rest of the beginners are not as green as I am. If they are I don't see where the sport gets any recruits.

The first race I saw on the time card was marked "2.30 class pacing, three in five," so I asked the lady and the diamonds what

that meant. With a shrug of her shoulders which was to let me know she knew I was another ignoramus, and a bewitching smile, which was to reassure me and, I suppose, keep me from taking to my heels, she set out to furnish the requisite information. This hotel is long on prunes but short on stationery so I will not attempt to tell you all she told me nor how she told it. Suffice it to say that a race for 2.30 class pacing, three in-five is a race for pacing horses that have never paced a mile faster than 2.30 and one of the starters must win three heats to get first money. In this particular race, if my memory has not been treacherous, when I left the grounds, just after they had turned on the electric lights so that we would not miss the location of the train and crawl into a box car, there had been seven or eight races for that purse and the judges had set it over until the next day. I am pretty fair at figures and when a man gives me an order for two gross of anything I know just as well when I write it three that I am wrong as he does. But if he gets me three gross and pays the bill so much more Christmas money for William. But if they race these pacing horses three in five, what's the use of racing them more than five times? Of course you may know the answer and I expect if I heard it I would think it easy. But the lady and the diamonds couldn't seem to get into the sort of language that I could understand. She tried to impress on my mind that one horse had to get to the wire first three times. According to the time card I tried to keep, two horses got to the wire first four times. But I suppose my card must be wrong. Its something like the tab they keep for us down at the Golden Rule. Every now and then Mike puts down a tally that rightfully belongs to some other fellow.

I got so hopelessly mixed on the pacers that I didn't know anything about the first trotting race until one of the judges leaned out of the stand and announced the money winners. I asked the lady and the diamonds if that ended the pacing race and with her blandest smile (for she had got used to me and my ignorance by that time)

she assured me that the pacing race was, as yet, unfinished, and the first trotting race had been won in straight heats. That got me. "Straight heats" I asked her if any of the heats in the pacing race were crooked. It seemed to me that if a race could be ended before I discovered it had begun and, as I had been assured by an expert, won in three straight heats, there must be something crooked in a race that was started at 1.30 p.m. and was still trying to get out the way at 5.30. But I was authoritatively assured that there was nothing crooked in the pacing race. "They're a lot of dogs that can't get out of their own way," the fair one with the diamonds assured me. I understood that part of it for I have seen the same kind at Aqueduct with saddles on. But I am still trying to figure out why, after they found out they couldn't beat one another, they didn't give it up and let us have something new.

There was one pacer in the herd that a man behind me said ought to win in a walk bar that he understood that they were keeping him for a killing at Hartford or some other town further along the line. I asked the lady with the sparklers what she knew about it, and she said: "If they keep that old dog until he makes a killing, he'll be the oldest winner that ever wore harness." My admiration for her profound knowledge of the game makes me believe that she spoke the whole truth. The track was full of horses all afternoon. My guide book had all their names I suppose. But it was up to me to identify them and I was a greenhorn. Which combination left me entirely in the dark. There was one stage of the game at which the prospective hock shop assured me that Billy B. stood for first money, Molly O was tied with Billy B. and Sarah S and Lulu May had a look in for third and fourth. "Can you read that and tell me how she guessed it? I can't. Once in a while one of the judges with a very loud voice announced: "We are now ready for the sixteenth heat of the 2.30 pace." When I left he hadn't yet run out of heats and I did not go back the next day to see how it all ended. If I had

been sure that "the sparklers" would have been there in a place where I was sure to find her I might have taken a chance.

In the gathering darkness we all hiked for the cars and started back to town. I got a seat alongside a gentleman who was agreeable and willing to talk whether you asked him to or not. He said he had been in on every race in the afternoon. Taking a bundle of tickets out of his pocket thick as a pack of cards he began to figure. When he had finished his calculations he said: "I was in four ways on that pacing race. If Billy B. wins tomorrow I am \$13 to the good; if he loses, I quit even, less my commissions. That first trotting race cost me about \$2. I had the favorite for three hundred and then placed myself so that I stood to win \$6 but the way it was working out I thought I'd get in for a few more dollars and that would give me a chance of winning over a hundred. Then things took a switch and I'm just about two bucks to the bad." He said a lot more that you wouldn't understand even if I had remembered it long enough to put it into this letter.

It must be a heap of fun to bet your money and then have to do enough work to balance a set of books before you know whether you win or lose. But the betting ring was full of people all afternoon and as I heard a lot of bookmakers roaring about their losses and the cheating that was going on I guess the sport does not differ much, in respect to the betting

angle, from some of the others that you and I have patronized. I have oftencatched myself trying to figure it out how these bookmakers lose every day at all kinds and conditions of race tracks yet keep right on wearing diamonds, living in the best hotels and riding in palace cars on the trains where there is extra fare for fast time. Still there must be something in their public exhibitions of sorrow for I have never found many losers on their way home from a race track.

I think I might learn to love that harness racing business. There is a sort of continuous performance air about it that might prove fascinating after you learned what is going on in front of you. Some of the show, like that pacing race I have told you about, seems to be put on for today and tomorrow. Which reminds me. Going in on the train someone complained because the pacing race was not finished. "Aw gowan," retorted a noisily dressed young man near him. "Yought to bin to Cheecawgo the year o' the World's Fair 'n' seen 'em race three days for the Columbian free fer all."

I am coming in for Christmas. We will have our dinner at the same old place. Saw Kit on the way up. She says that last letter you wrote to her sounded very much like you had taken a fancy to a new shade of hair. Whatever you do, Larry, do not grow fickle.

Very truly yours,

BILL.

