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Head Office at Charlottetown Branch Office at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.
London Office, Marconi House, Strand, W. C.

President... A. A. Bartlett
Managing Editor... J. R. Burnett

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BANKRUPTCY TO OPULENCE

Prosperity reigns supreme under the present Government. The success of Premier Mathieson's administration has been unparalleled, not only in this province but in Canada. He undertook the government at a time when his predecessors laid it down sick, discouraged and disheartened by the repeated annual deficits, and when nothing but bankruptcy seemed to stare us in the face.

Was it any wonder they failed to make revenue and expenditure meet; was it surprising that inefficiency and incompetency were the order of the day; could anything else but red ruin result and bankruptcy stare us in the face as the consequence of such pernicious policy?

When they did resign and handed the affairs over to the Conservative party it was with a sigh of relief and a cynical "wish you joy with the burden we have left you."

The affairs of the Island had reached a stage when only a man of genius and almost superhuman will-power could save it from extinction and amalgamation with New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. Indeed the policy of the Liberal party at Ottawa seemed to indicate that they wished to give the Island sufficient rope in the matter of maladministration to hang itself, in the hope that history would repeat itself.

Premier Mathieson is the man who saved the Island from this untoward fate. How he did it every Islander knows and appreciates. He stood between us and annihilation as a Province in the Dominion, and when the inner history of Canada comes to be written, it will be realized how near we were to becoming a county of one or other of the mainland Maritime Provinces.

Not only from such fate have we been saved, but as the result of the statesmanship of Premier Mathieson and his government, in three short years practically, we have risen from "the ashes of our dead selves," to the proud and enviable position of being one of the most prosperous, progressive, and promising provinces in the Dominion of Canada.

CANADIAN RAILWAYS

As a rule blue books do not make interesting reading, but there are exceptions. One just issued, Railway Statistics of Canada for the year ended June 30, 1914, although practically consisting of figures, is a notable exception. It is decidedly interesting, because it shows, as perhaps no other available statistics could show, the development of Canada, the evolution of railroading and railway transportation, as to cost, volume and efficiency.

The Dominion is young. Eighty years ago, in 1835, there was not a mile of railway in all British North America. In 1836 sixteen miles of railway was built (by the enterprise of Montreal capitalists from La Prairie on the south side of the St. Lawrence, to St. Johns on the Richelieu.) With this the country was satisfied until 1847 when the mileage was increased to 54 miles. From this date it grew until in 1856 there were 1,414 miles in operation. At the time of Confederation there were 3,832 miles of railway and on June 30, 1914, there were 30,795.

A detailed statement is given as to the number of passengers carried, cost per mile, average passenger journey and other items of more or less interest. Of these, perhaps the most interesting fact is that the number of passengers carried in 1907 was 32,137,319, while in 1914 it was 46,702,280. Freight tonnage per mile grew from 1,180 in 1875 to 3,292 in 1914.

It is interesting to note that while operating expenses grew from .779 cents per mile in 1899 to \$1.659 in 1914, the percentage of operating expenses to earnings fell from \$1.1 in 1875 to 73.6 in 1914.

Considerable encouragement is to be found in the fact that with the increasing mileage and travel the number of accidents has greatly diminished. Statistics under this head are given only as far back as 1907 when there were 70 persons killed and 352 injured, as compared with 25 killed and 402 injured in 1914, from which it might be inferred that while one is more liable to be injured than eight years ago he is less liable to be killed. Another table shows that in 1888 one passenger in every 534,931 was killed, while in 1914 only one in 1,868,091 was killed.

On June 30, 1914, there were 159,142 employees in the service of the Canadian Railways as compared with 178,652 in 1913. The gross earnings from the outside operations of railways in 1914 were \$23,882,141 and gross expenses \$19,784,803.

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

What science is doing and has done in the interests of agriculture, if compiled, would make a most interesting study. Necessarily the results of scientific experiments are slow. The results of one year's work will not be seen for many years. Hope and love of his work, with practically no visible results alone inspire him but by his patient

research he adds to the sum of knowledge that has made agriculture and horticulture what they are today.

Science has developed from the wild and apparently useless all the cereals and vegetables, and much of the fruit that now constitute the sole food of the human race. It is true that before science—as science—was applied to the cultivation of these much progress was made through laborious and painstaking selection and care but the process was much more discouraging than it is today. Agriculture is now an applied science, its findings as definite as are those of the most elaborate chemists and analysts.

In our own province and throughout the Dominion these findings are being practically applied through the teachings of educated and trained experts so that progress in practically all lines of agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry will be much more rapid than ever before. As an illustration of both the slowness and the success of careful experimenting it is interesting to note the work done by Dr. J. C. Whitten, a noted horticulturist of Seventeen years ago, when Dr. Whitten went to the Missouri station to teach horticulture, he began to be puzzled over the injuries to orchards by late frosts, and started to locate, if possible, the exact trouble. For several years he made very careful studies of peach tree growth, to learn just when the growth takes place and what factors encourage it or hold it back. He did not then know, what has been discovered since, that during the early part of winter a tree undergoes a rest period during which it is absolutely dormant and cannot be aroused into growth by any means whatever.

During one winter he had taken samples of peach buds every day and had made very careful measurements of them under the microscope, so that he was able to detect the slightest trace of cell development indicating a start in growth. The days upon which growth took place during the late winter and early spring were all tabulated. Attempting to discover what had caused the growth to take place, he put alongside of this list a report from the weather bureau, giving the temperatures and weather conditions for that same period of observation.

No relation whatever was discoverable between the temperature and the growth, but he discovered accidentally that there was a marked relation between sunshine and growth. It was the sunshine in early spring that forced the buds to open and made them a prey to the late frosts.

The buds of the peach were a deep purple color, a color exceedingly well adapted to absorbing rays of sunshine. He concluded that if the buds were a different color so that they would reflect the sunlight instead of absorbing it they would not start into growth so early.

Following out this lead he tried spraying a diagonal row of trees through the peach orchard with white-wash in late winter, giving them two coats, so that the buds were completely whitened. The results of this trial were almost startling. When there was not another peach of value in the whole orchard and very few in that part of the State, that diagonal row of trees which was white-washed gave splendid results and bore a good crop of peaches.

This is but part of Dr. Whitten's experimenting with peach trees, but one series of thousands of experiments that are continually being followed out by scientists for the improvement of fruits, cereals and other farm products.

WORDS VS DEEDS

In a book, "Life of His Majesty Albert King of the Belgians," recently issued it is recalled that the first state visit that King Albert and Queen Elizabeth made after the accession to the throne was to Berlin. As the Kaiser was indisposed the Crown Prince acted for him, and at a state dinner, speaking in the name of the Sovereign, assured the guests of the amicable sentiments of the German Government and people for the Belgian sovereigns and their flourishing country. This was in May, 1910, and in October of the same year the German Emperor paid the return visit to Brussels. The Kaiser and his consort were received most cordially in the Belgian capital which was en fete for the occasion. The German flag floated everywhere beside the Belgian colors. The Burgomaster of Brussels was one of the leading figures in making the visit of the Kaiser happy. (This Burgomaster has since been imprisoned in a German fortress for defending the city in which the Kaiser was so lavishly entertained.) The visit culminated in a state dinner at which the monarchs eulogized each other and their respective people.

The Kaiser, in his reply to the gracious welcome of King Albert professed to be profoundly touched and said he found in the reception a subject of close union "which exists not only between our families but also between our peoples." "May the relations," he concluded, "full of confidence and neighborliness, of which the recent negotiations between our two governments have given such amicable testimony, be still more strengthened. May the reign of your Majesty's spread happiness and prosperity amongst your royal house and among your people. This is the most profound wish of my heart with which I cry long live their majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians."

These kind and apparently sincere words were uttered in October 1910. In August 1914 the man who uttered them hurled his legions against the almost defenceless people to whom he had pledged his friendship and whose only crime was that they stood between him and the goal of his ambition, France. What the Kaiser's word is worth has since become well known and his name is a byword and a hissing throughout the civilized world. The King and the little band whom the Kaiser tried to crush are today among the most honored of the world's Kings and the world's bravest. King Albert is a hero and when he is restored to his own the whole world, with the exception of Germany will rejoice. On the occasion of the celebration of his fortieth birthday a few days ago he was the recipient of more heartfelt congratulations perhaps than ever fell to any monarch during the century.

HUMILIATING

The manner in which the Germans are providing for the future may be inferred from the fact that the G Germans have established Farm Labour Exchanges and concentration camps in North Schleswig, where the farmers have chosen British prisoners suitable for the cultivation of the land and taken them to their farms, escorted by Landstrum. The imagination reels at the thought of sturdy Scottish soldiers ploughing in German soil a few miles north of the Kiel Canal. That, however, is the bitter fate of many of the Allies prisoners.

A Dane from Hamburg tells that he saw from a German mail train a group of cheerful bearded Scotsmen in charge of two fat Landstrum working in the fields. Many of the young farmers in Schleswig will never return from East Prussia, where they were sent to fight the Russians, or will return too late for the spring cultivation. The German Government accordingly devised a scheme, with the help of Schleswig farmers, whereby nearly all the farm work and land cultivation will be done by British, French, and Russian prisoners.

Each farmer is allowed ten prisoners, and the Scottish soldiers from agricultural districts are preferred. The farmers visit the Labour Exchange every morning if it is near, but if the farm is more than four miles from the Exchange the soldiers are billeted in the farmhouse with the Landstrum. They earn 75 pfennig (9 1/4 d.) per day.

LIBERAL BURKERS

SIR WILFRID LAURIER CONSISTENTLY CHAMPIONED CONCEALMENT

A STRIKING CONTRAST TO-DAY

"The Dominion Government has shown a creditable willingness to investigate irregularities in connection with the letting of Militia contracts. There has been no gag rule, no appeal to narrow contemptible technicalities in order to prevent the production of evidence."—Manitoba Free Press.

In these days, when the well organized imagination of the lower class of the Liberal press is working overtime distorting facts and endeavoring with industrious dishonesty to destroy the reputation of the Government, the foregoing tribute from the great organ of the Liberal party in the West should be pondered well by the Canadian people.

It will stand to the everlasting credit of the Borden administration that despite the efforts of certain individuals to prove their own virtue by decrying that of others, it has stood four square for the white light of the most pitiless publicity, prepared to let the great jury of the people judge of its innocence or guilt, to stand or fall on its record. Men do not commit forgery when the public is looking on. Secrecy has ever been the hand-maid of crime. And in this willingness of the Borden administration to court the fullest and fairest investigation, there is opened a new chapter in the story of political morality or immorality in this country.

TOO SOON FORGOTTEN

Political memories are short. And the public is liable to forget the foul record of the Liberal Government in stifling each and every attempt that was made to drive out the parasites from its rule of corruption and political crime. For fifteen years this country was gagged, blinded and misruled. The plainest rule of political hygiene was violated, the very foundation of democracy undermined, inasmuch as the people were kept in abysmal darkness concerning the operations of the men to whom they had confided the carrying on of Government with all that that word implies. Graft is bound to thrive in such measure as the public are not permitted to note what is going on behind the scenes, and the natural result of Laurier's reign of secrecy was fifteen years of political criminology unparalleled in the whole history of party crime.

EVADED INVESTIGATION

Year after year and session after session the Conservative party struggled to let in the light, but with a love for the dark not excelled by Satan himself, the looters who followed Laurier successfully evaded investigation of their nefarious deals. An honest Government like an honest man, courts the truth. If it has nothing to hide it will hide nothing. And in that one fundamental fact lay the reason for the Liberal hostility to light.

This is no mere partizan charge, no mere clouding of the issue. We have opened for the prosecution of Laurierism as the enemy of political morality, as the party which dealt foul blows to political virtue from 1896 to 1911, and we are going to submit the evidence.

THE YUKON SCANDAL

Three years after Laurier came into office there developed the notorious

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

FRIENDSHIP

O, for the love of a friend whose voice and touch will rainbow sorrows, diamond tears, making of them gems of rarest joy; one who forgives all my shortcomings ere asked to do so; one who dares to the uttermost of human imagery; one whose ship will cast anchor, and throw out the life line of hope when storms are near; one who forgives in me all that I can forgive in myself. O, for the love of a friend who can be made the sacred trustee of my heart; one who is more to me than the closest relative; one whose very name is so sacred that I want to whisper it softly; one who lingers near my door in time of distress, and stretches forth his hand, which is not empty or cold, and who says little, but feels largely; one whose very glance radiates tenderness, sympathy, loving kindness, and whose warming effect penetrates the very soul of me; one whose smile eases the gray pain in the heart of me; one who lays his hand tenderly on my fevered brow, saying "Peace, be still;" one who is not afraid to lay down his own burden to help carry mine; one whose silent presence subdues all gloom, and melts keenest sorrows, transforming them into a brilliancy of gladness and joy. Without such friendship, love is without endurance.

Yukon scandal. The press of Canada and Great Britain were teeming with disgraceful and apparently well founded charges. Sir Charles Herbert Tupper moved that two judges of the Supreme Court or two judges of the Superior Court be appointed with the fullest possible powers to conduct the fullest inquiry into affairs in connection with the Yukon. In presenting this motion Sir Charles offered to forfeit his seat in the Commons and his right to hold any office in the gift of the Crown if he failed to prove the charges he had made. THE LAURIER MAJORITY VOTED THAT MOTION DOWN. We will not do violence to the understanding of the reader by asking why?

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT

In 1906 Sir Robert Borden moved for a commission of inquiry into charges made against the conduct of the public business of the Department of Marine. Graft and loot in the Department had become a grave public scandal and menace since as far back as 1902. The later report of Mr. Justice Cassels showing that the gangster of graft had eaten its way among Liberal officials to an alarming degree, demonstrated only too truly the justifiability of Sir Robert Borden's motion. BUT AGAIN CANADIAN "LIBERALISM" PREFERRED THE DARK AND VOTED DOWN THE MOTION FOR AN INQUIRY.

TIMBER TRANSACTIONS

In 1906 Sir Robert Borden asked for a commission of inquiry into certain timber transactions in the West. The plunder of the public domain in Western Canada will long stand out among the many misdeeds of Laurierism. It was robbery of the public for the benefit of a privileged few on a scale unprecedented. TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT RED-HANDED THE LAURIER GOVERNMENT VOTED DOWN SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S MOTION; VOTED TO SHUT OUT THE LIGHT.

THE CRIME OF THE N. T. R.

"The Crime of the Transcontinental" will be written high on the list of the catalogue of Liberal loot. For years it was manifest to anyone who did not wish to be deceived that the public treasury was being depleted for the benefit of a few railway magnates and their political beneficiaries. In 1907 Mr. Barker, of Hamilton, moved a resolution authorizing the Public Accounts Committee to inquire into statements of account presented by the Grand Trunk Pacific Company for construction work on the Western section, and also to investigate the disappearance of certificates and other public documents said to have been handed over to the company and by them destroyed. Had that motion carried, had the searchlight of public scrutiny been turned on the joint operations of the company and the feebleness of the Government then, the history of the Transcontinental might have been different. But again Laurierism could not stand the noon-day sun of the national gaze, again the motion was voted down.

KEEP ON THE LID

In 1908 the Public Accounts Committee had degenerated into a farce. All attempts to probe evidence of wrongdoing were blocked by the notorious "Dark Lantern Brigade." A pillar of parliamentary government was being seriously undermined. Government "of the people" had become a mockery, a mere hollow phrase, and the Conservative party in a final attempt to safeguard the public weal moved in the Commons that:

"Any action of the majority of that (Public Accounts) committee in excluding evidence or restricting inquiry should be subject to this House, and upon request for the purpose the necessary report of proceedings ought immediately to be ordered."

(Continued on page five)

Seasons New Spring Dress Goods

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