

The Political History of Mr. W. T. R. Preston

(Continued from Page Six.)

and Macnish. A day or two after Preston sent that telegram he received one from Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Wilfrid sent for him. He said: "Mr. Preston, you have made a nice job of it, but you have not been getting enough money; we are going to send you to England as our Commissioner of Immigration at a salary of \$3,000 a year."

That was the reward for the good work which he had done. Shortly after that charges were made against Mr. Macnish, his election was protested, and he finally resigned his seat, couching his reasons in the following letter:

Messrs. Crothers and Price, Barristers, St. Thomas, Ont. Dear Sirs:—We beg to advise you that Mr. Macnish has discussed at length with his solicitors the charges contained in the petition which has been filed against his return as member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for West Elgin, and that they have to a considerable extent investigated the charges contained therein and other matters which have come to their knowledge in connection with the election. And the subscribers hereto make the following statements and admission respecting the same:

1. That a large number of persons were specially sent into the constituency by men working on behalf of the Liberal party for the express purpose of taking part on Mr. Macnish's behalf on the election held January 12, 1899, and we believe that fraudulent and corrupt means were used by some such persons to secure his election.

2. That several of the said persons illegally and without authority acted as deputy returning officers at the said election, and in at least three cases so acted in the names of reputable local men, having under assumed names been introduced to the returning officer by local agents of Mr. Macnish.

3. That in many polling sub-divisions of the riding there were grave irregularities connected with the return of the ballot boxes and their contents, the voting, and the counting of the ballots thereat.

4. That there were large numbers of persons brought into the riding for the express purpose of personating legitimate voters, and assisted by some of Mr. Macnish's local supporters, such persons did personate qualified voters in voting for Mr. Macnish.

5. That the declared number of votes for Mr. Macnish largely exceeded the number of bona-fide votes cast for him.

6. That a large number of votes cast for Mr. Macniard were in some nefarious and corrupt manner manipulated whereby the result of the election was rendered doubtful, and that in this connection the names of Shelden and Middlemarch, and in several divisions in St. Thomas, were said to have acted as deputy returning officers, merits special mention.

7. That there are good reasons to believe that there are many specific and well-authenticated cases where Mr. Macnish concealed at his homes some of these strangers, who there paid large sum of money to electors to induce them to vote for him.

8. That Mr. Macnish will forthwith deliver to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly his resignation as a member thereof for the said electoral district.

ent of North America—W. T. R. Preston. I repeat that if the Government wanted to manipulate votes and wished for a past master crookedness to do it, and to divert the soldier's votes, it knew that W. T. R. Preston was the man to apply to for that purpose. It did not wish to manipulate the soldier votes and it did not apply to or get Mr. W. T. R. Preston to do it. What reason was there for the leader of the Opposition to select W. T. R. Preston for that job? Was it because of his record for political purity that he was selected for that position? Is the Laurier party so lacking in men of integrity and honor and credibility that they have to select a man of the stamp of W. T. R. Preston to represent their candidacies in the United Kingdom? Why was it done? It was done in my judgment, Sir, because they knew that the sentiment of the soldiers was opposed to a leader and a party which had refused to back them up in their fight in Flanders. The Liberal Party said: "The man who is most likely to deceive those soldiers, to devise a plan whereby their votes will not be counted as they want them to be counted, is W. T. R. Preston. We will send that prince of political crooks over to England to represent the Laurier candidates." And yet the leader of the Opposition gets up here and professes righteous indignation because of an alleged telegram which is vouchered for by whom? By W. T. R. Preston. And he hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) boasts that his ethical training makes him look with holy horror upon a request that a certain number of votes should be sent here or there. Well, well, the member or Brome shocked, the member whose ethical training is along the lines of political morality! When have we ever heard from the member for Brome or from the hon. leader of the Opposition, or from the honorable member from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) or from the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Robb) or from a whole lot more that I would name if they were in their seats—whoever heard of their having spasms over the crooked acts of the party they have supported for years? Did they stand aghast at the sawdust wharf transaction, at the Saskatchewan land deals—at the selling of timber limits—in the ballot box affairs down in Frontenac and Hastings Counties? Did they shed any tears over that last scandal? No, they did not express any horror, nor was the hon. George Graham tried or reproved for his part in it. Those rogues boxes were made at Watertown, and on the Sunday afternoon when the principals were gathered to see how the work was progressing, they went out of their way to visit Brockville and closet themselves with the Hon. George Graham—the man who aspired to be the leader of the Liberal party—to talk over the situation. Many of the ballots were printed in his newspaper office, which came into the trial of Riley, who served a year in Belleville jail for his share in the work. When have these hon. gentlemen, who now pose as political purists, ever denounced that sort of thing on their side of the house? I have yet to hear the first one.

My dear Southworth:—I have your letter of a late date about emigration to Ontario. You incidentally say in the letter that you are opposed to indiscriminate emigration. Well, in that respect you agree with everybody else. I do not know any one who suggests, or who would propose that there should be indiscriminate emigration to this province. What ever is done must be done carefully and any who are sent out must be well-selected emigrants. But don't run away with the idea that only well-to-do people, or those with money, are going to emigrate. If you are going to keep up population in the old parts of the province, you must be satisfied with sober, energetic and industrious emigrants. I know all you people are terribly afraid of the foreign element. Upon that point I don't agree with you and have no hesitation in saying that a good class of foreigners scattered about the old parts of Ontario will do very much more towards preserving a proper agricultural population than those from England, for instance. Politically speaking, I believe the introduction of a hundred families or so into some of those close ridings with the connections which could be had and maintained here would easily preserve for us many doubtful seats in that province. I know the anxiety or nervousness of the minister upon this question. Confidentially, I may tell you I fear it bears some slight resemblance to one of courage. You know enough about politics to know that courage always beats. However, as we don't agree upon that phase of the question, we won't discuss it.

I have heard from the Wallaceburg people in answer to my letter of the middle of last month and I am now trying to meet their wishes among the best growers of Belgium. I will be over there in the course of a week or ten days and will then write to you as also to them upon the outlook there.

Yours very truly, W. T. R. PRESTON

Now the signature on that is not typewritten. It is written with pen and ink, it is written on the paper of the Emigration Office where Preston had his office. There is no doubt about this. The leader of the Opposition in his remarks on the motion before the house spoke about fingermarks and earmarks and so on. Let him produce the telegram to which he refers, so that we may look at the fingermarks and the earmarks; let us see if he can produce this telegram with authentic marks on it as to its origin and pedigree.

Why Preston was Chosen. Mr. Speaker, why have I placed these matters before you and before the House? I have done so because I want to ask one question, and it is this: Knowing as we do know, and as Sir Wilfrid Laurier knew the history of this W. T. R. Preston as he knew his alphabet; knowing that this W. T. R. Preston was the man who was connected with the switching of ballots, with the West Elgin election and with very many other elections which were protested in the province of Ontario and with which his connection could not be doubted; knowing that he was the man who made a demand upon a certain gentleman for \$10,000 as the price of a senatorship; knowing that he was the man connected with the North Atlantic Trading Company and several organizations which were bleeding or robbing this country to the extent of thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars on the emigrants that were brought out here; knowing all this—knowing his connection and his loose, crooked connection with the politics of this country, the question I ask is: Why was that man selected as the agent of the Laurier Government over in England? There is only one reason why he was selected. If this Government was guilty of the charges which have been levelled and of the insinuations that have been made against it, that there was a conspiracy to manipulate the votes overseas, may I tell you, Sir, that it was fully aware of the record, the reputation and the ability for crookedness of W. T. R. Preston, and if it wanted to manipulate votes and wanted somebody crooked to handle those votes, it knew where to get the best man for that kind of work in the Dominion of Canada, or on the continent of North America—W. T. R. Preston.

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Now let us see what he did when he got there. No sooner had he got to England than he started his dirty work, his crooked work, over there. His hand was seen in connection with the North Atlantic Trading Company, for whom his son-in-law was the solicitor; and a certain Leopold Lazarus—a man of Jewish extraction I would

repeal that if the Government wanted to manipulate votes and wished for a past master crookedness to do it, and to divert the soldier's votes, it knew that W. T. R. Preston was the man to apply to for that purpose. It did not wish to manipulate the soldier votes and it did not apply to or get Mr. W. T. R. Preston to do it. What reason was there for the leader of the Opposition to select W. T. R. Preston for that job? Was it because of his record for political purity that he was selected for that position? Is the Laurier party so lacking in men of integrity and honor and credibility that they have to select a man of the stamp of W. T. R. Preston to represent their candidacies in the United Kingdom? Why was it done? It was done in my judgment, Sir, because they knew that the sentiment of the soldiers was opposed to a leader and a party which had refused to back them up in their fight in Flanders. The Liberal Party said: "The man who is most likely to deceive those soldiers, to devise a plan whereby their votes will not be counted as they want them to be counted, is W. T. R. Preston. We will send that prince of political crooks over to England to represent the Laurier candidates." And yet the leader of the Opposition gets up here and professes righteous indignation because of an alleged telegram which is vouchered for by whom? By W. T. R. Preston. And he hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) boasts that his ethical training makes him look with holy horror upon a request that a certain number of votes should be sent here or there. Well, well, the member or Brome shocked, the member whose ethical training is along the lines of political morality! When have we ever heard from the member for Brome or from the hon. leader of the Opposition, or from the honorable member from Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) or from the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Robb) or from a whole lot more that I would name if they were in their seats—whoever heard of their having spasms over the crooked acts of the party they have supported for years? Did they stand aghast at the sawdust wharf transaction, at the Saskatchewan land deals—at the selling of timber limits—in the ballot box affairs down in Frontenac and Hastings Counties? Did they shed any tears over that last scandal? No, they did not express any horror, nor was the hon. George Graham tried or reproved for his part in it. Those rogues boxes were made at Watertown, and on the Sunday afternoon when the principals were gathered to see how the work was progressing, they went out of their way to visit Brockville and closet themselves with the Hon. George Graham—the man who aspired to be the leader of the Liberal party—to talk over the situation. Many of the ballots were printed in his newspaper office, which came into the trial of Riley, who served a year in Belleville jail for his share in the work. When have these hon. gentlemen, who now pose as political purists, ever denounced that sort of thing on their side of the house? I have yet to hear the first one.

Earlier in the course of my remarks I quoted from the speech delivered by the leader of the Opposition and asked him to state explicitly what he meant by certain words he used. In explaining his words he emphatically said: "I do not know what you are talking about, and I do not know what you are talking about." He is all alone when he says that; he puts an X opposite the name of the Government candidate or the Opposition candidate, as he sees fit. Nobody sees him mark the ballot; he puts it in the envelope and, if he is one of these voters at large, he is not even asked to mark the ballot. He is all alone when he says that; he puts an X opposite the name of the Government candidate or the Opposition candidate, as he sees fit. Nobody sees him mark the ballot; he puts it in the envelope and, if he is one of these voters at large, he is not even asked to mark the ballot.

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Following it up, if you want to get the percentage of that alleged telegram, I believe W. T. R. Preston had something to do with it. There is no doubt about that. Does anybody in this House believe that the statement made by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) is going to weigh with this House or the people of this country for one single fraction of a second, when he imputes anything dishonorable to a man of the standing of the Minister of the Interior? Not a moment. As the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark) said, hon. gentlemen opposite have made a great mistake in bringing this matter before the House, and they realized that shortly after the matter was brought up, I am quite sure they realized it because they took up all the time they could in a sort of afternoon. Then the suggestion came from that hon. gentleman who never gets behind a bush—he is an awfully good fellow to himself, isn't he?—when the Minister of the Interior was about to answer, that the debate be adjourned until the next day. "Oh, yes," he said, "let me make a few hours' start, and you cannot catch up to it. Let my statement get the public now, and you defer your answer for twenty-four hours until tomorrow or the next day, and then things will be all right." That was the suggestion made by the hon. gentleman who never gets behind a bush. Well, if that was not getting behind a bush it was setting in the direction of the bush pretty fast. The next indication we had of their superabundant courage was when the Minister of the Interior had spoken about twenty minutes or half an hour and six o'clock came. Then the courageous member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) jumps up and calls the Speaker's attention to the fact that it is six o'clock, Wednesday, and an evening session. The medicine was coming to them faster than they could take it comfortably, and they wanted to get away. Then this afternoon we had the hon. member for Chambly and Vercheres (Mr. Archambault) sticking most courageously to his guns and reading out extracts from the judgment of Mr. Justice MacLennan, occupying four hours of the time of this House, for what purpose? For the purpose, I am inclined to think, of overhauling discussion on this matter. Perhaps, in that case, I do not want to do the hon. member any injustice, but I certainly think I have some grounds for coming to that conclusion.

Something More Wanted. Well, we have given consideration to this matter, and what does it all amount to? An alleged charge based upon an alleged telegram which the leader of the Opposition cannot produce, and a statement made by some person overseas who says when he made the statement that he was a scoundrel or was doing what was wrong. Then we have that great and glorious and noble man, W. T. R. Preston, to back up these charges. Mr. Speaker, it will require more than the sanctimonious air of the leader of the Opposition and his assumed indignation at an alleged telegram which he is afraid to carry on his person, before I will be like to carry stolen property, or to take the declaration of the hon. member or Brome (Mr. McMaster) or the long-winded chase-tracking of the hon. member for Chambly and Vercheres (Mr. Archambault) for hon. gentlemen opposite to make out their case.

Mr. Speaker, what do you think of the content to leave it there. I rose for the purpose of endeavoring to show what I think cannot be refuted, that the result of the election was not influenced in any way by the soldier vote, and I have demonstrated that province by province. I also wanted to show the company hon. gentlemen were keeping when they were making these charges. I wanted to show the record of W. T. R. Preston, the kind of man they were relying on and applauding at their Liberal convention, when he was mouthing charges of this kind against a man whose shop latchet he is not worthy to unloose. I am satisfied to leave the whole matter to the judgment of the country, and I am well satisfied also as to what the soldiers will say as to the remark of the hon. leader of the Opposition, a remark which I say he should never have made, a charge which I say is unworthy of any man in this House, implying, as it does, crime of the worst kind on the part of ignorant men who were taking their lives for the people of this country. Certainly a charge of that kind should not be made unless the leader of the Opposition gets up and names the man who had been guilty of making a threat of that kind, for otherwise he leaves all these officers and gentlemen under that imputation.

On the motion of Mr. Robb the debate was adjourned.

WERNER HORNE DECLARED INSANE. FREDERICTON, Oct. 7.—Werner Horne, the German agent who tried to blow up the International Bridge on the Main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, between McAdam, N. B. and Tanaboro, Me., on February 2nd, 1915, may not be returned here after all to stand trial for his crime. Horne is being held by the United States authorities at Jersey City, N. J. for extradition to Canada on a charge of sabotage and his papers were recently forwarded to the State Department at Washington, where it was expected they would be signed without hesitations so that he could be sent to Fredericton for trial in the courts here, his crime having been committed in York County.

Following the appearance of Horne before Commissioner Carpenter at Jersey City, when he admitted having blown up the bridge, word has now been received by Hon. J. P. Byrne, Attorney General, from the Deputy Minister of Justice, at Ottawa, that Horne has been declared insane. The Attorney-General has been asked whether under the circumstances he would extradite proceedings carried along. It is understood today that the reply to be sent forward by Hon. Mr. Byrne will be that under the circumstances this Province will not press for extradition. New Brunswick doesn't want any insane Germans on its hands.

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Following the appearance of Horne before Commissioner Carpenter at Jersey City, when he admitted having blown up the bridge, word has now been received by Hon. J. P. Byrne, Attorney General, from the Deputy Minister of Justice, at Ottawa, that Horne has been declared insane. The Attorney-General has been asked whether under the circumstances he would extradite proceedings carried along. It is understood today that the reply to be sent forward by Hon. Mr. Byrne will be that under the circumstances this Province will not press for extradition. New Brunswick doesn't want any insane Germans on its hands.

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the only object. It was started as a political convention by one of the most unscrupulous political shysters that this country has ever produced.

Following it up, if you want to get the percentage of that alleged telegram, I believe W. T. R. Preston had something to do with it. There is no doubt about that. Does anybody in this House believe that the statement made by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) is going to weigh with this House or the people of this country for one single fraction of a second, when he imputes anything dishonorable to a man of the standing of the Minister of the Interior? Not a moment. As the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark) said, hon. gentlemen opposite have made a great mistake in bringing this matter before the House, and they realized that shortly after the matter was brought up, I am quite sure they realized it because they took up all the time they could in a sort of afternoon. Then the suggestion came from that hon. gentleman who never gets behind a bush—he is an awfully good fellow to himself, isn't he?—when the Minister of the Interior was about to answer, that the debate be adjourned until the next day. "Oh, yes," he said, "let me make a few hours' start, and you cannot catch up to it. Let my statement get the public now, and you defer your answer for twenty-four hours until tomorrow or the next day, and then things will be all right." That was the suggestion made by the hon. gentleman who never gets behind a bush. Well, if that was not getting behind a bush it was setting in the direction of the bush pretty fast. The next indication we had of their superabundant courage was when the Minister of the Interior had spoken about twenty minutes or half an hour and six o'clock came. Then the courageous member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) jumps up and calls the Speaker's attention to the fact that it is six o'clock, Wednesday, and an evening session. The medicine was coming to them faster than they could take it comfortably, and they wanted to get away. Then this afternoon we had the hon. member for Chambly and Vercheres (Mr. Archambault) sticking most courageously to his guns and reading out extracts from the judgment of Mr. Justice MacLennan, occupying four hours of the time of this House, for what purpose? For the purpose, I am inclined to think, of overhauling discussion on this matter. Perhaps, in that case, I do not want to do the hon. member any injustice, but I certainly think I have some grounds for coming to that conclusion.

Something More Wanted. Well, we have given consideration to this matter, and what does it all amount to? An alleged charge based upon an alleged telegram which the leader of the Opposition cannot produce, and a statement made by some person overseas who says when he made the statement that he was a scoundrel or was doing what was wrong. Then we have that great and glorious and noble man, W. T. R. Preston, to back up these charges. Mr. Speaker, it will require more than the sanctimonious air of the leader of the Opposition and his assumed indignation at an alleged telegram which he is afraid to carry on his person, before I will be like to carry stolen property, or to take the declaration of the hon. member or Brome (Mr. McMaster) or the long-winded chase-tracking of the hon. member for Chambly and Vercheres (Mr. Archambault) for hon. gentlemen opposite to make out their case.

Mr. Speaker, what do you think of the content to leave it there. I rose for the purpose of endeavoring to show what I think cannot be refuted, that the result of the election was not influenced in any way by the soldier vote, and I have demonstrated that province by province. I also wanted to show the company hon. gentlemen were keeping when they were making these charges. I wanted to show the record of W. T. R. Preston, the kind of man they were relying on and applauding at their Liberal convention, when he was mouthing charges of this kind against a man whose shop latchet he is not worthy to unloose. I am satisfied to leave the whole matter to the judgment of the country, and I am well satisfied also as to what the soldiers will say as to the remark of the hon. leader of the Opposition, a remark which I say he should never have made, a charge which I say is unworthy of any man in this House, implying, as it does, crime of the worst kind on the part of ignorant men who were taking their lives for the people of this country. Certainly a charge of that kind should not be made unless the leader of the Opposition gets up and names the man who had been guilty of making a threat of that kind, for otherwise he leaves all these officers and gentlemen under that imputation.

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