

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1922.

SIR HENRY THORNTON'S DEBUT

The cordial welcome tendered to Sir Henry Thornton by leading Canadians in Montreal on Tuesday night was a fitting prelude to the undertaking he has been entrusted with in Canada. This after dinner speech, concluded in this issue was a felicitous effort, straight forward, honest and aboveboard. He placed only his own cards but the cards of the government which employed him on the table. There is to be no political interference with his work or with the work of any of the officials of the road; this was the condition upon which he accepted the position; it was the condition upon which the government accepted his services. Sir Henry made this very clear and emphatic; he assumes full responsibility. If he succeeds in making the Canadian National Railway a paying institution the credit will be his alone; he fails he alone will be responsible. This platform he laid down with emphasis and with decision at the beginning of his work. It was a "hands off" notice to the politicians; the job is his alone. In view of many prevailing opinions and especially in view of the declaration recently made by Mr. E. M. McDonald, M. P., for Picton that the railway cannot be dissociated from politics, this enunciation of policy by the general manager at the outset is timely and to the point. It is the desire of every true Canadian that Sir Henry's great undertaking shall be a complete success; that the Canadian railways shall be, as they were designed to be, the arteries of Canada's legitimate and ever increasing trade. Whether or not Canada is over-railroaded, we have the railroads and a country capable of infinite development and our railways whether too many or too few always play a large part in that development. To this end the railways must be made available for the carrying of our produce at a cost which will leave the producer a living profit; they must be made a medium for the development and the benefit of the country, not merely a wage earning institution for employees and officials. This is Sir Henry's task and he will have the sympathy and the co-operation of all patriotic Canadians in his efforts. We cordially join in the warm welcome tendered to him in Montreal and in all the good wishes expressed there for his success.

SIGNIFICANT VICTORY

The election of Dr. Preston, Conservative, at the bye-election in Lanark last Monday was an eye-opener for present-day Liberalism. The government had staked all on the contest. Premier King addressed five public meetings in the interests of the Liberal candidate; every Liberal minister who was not away on a delegation to Europe or elsewhere, camped on the riding and everything that the government could offer by way of inducement to the electors was promised. In view of the efforts put forth the chances of the Conservative candidate looked slim and even the Opposition press, which on such occasions usually puts "the best foot forward" was very cautious in its predictions. The Montreal Gazette, Conservative, on Saturday before the election published a despatch which looked like an omen for a defeat. The despatch expressed the doubts regarding the

Notes By The Way

The chief defender of the Bell Government has poured forth a column or more of words in an apparent attempt to answer and refute certain charges made in these notes with regard to the Tax Act, the method of its enactment and administration. We had thought well of the taxpayers in this Province and said so, especially citing the fact that they paid their federal and civic taxes promptly, cheerfully, without resistance or irritation. The defender evidently thinks badly of them, for he says: We are so constituted that it to a man that he naturally wishes to avoid paying like his tax. It has been said also by those who have given the question careful study that it is not the worst men, not the shirkers who evade this, but some of the best men—men who would even die for their country will lie for their taxes. That is the kind of a man you are, Mr. Taxpayer, worse than the shirker in the eyes of the Bell Government's defender. You would die for your country perhaps, but you would lie about your taxes! How do you like your portrait Mr. Taxpayer? What better evidence do you want of the spirit in which the Tax Act has been enforced? Next to these lying taxpayers and apparently as lightly esteemed, the defender finds another class made up of all who venture to criticize the Bell Government. These are characterized as "Anti-Tax Agitators," "Political Snobs," "filled with bitter contempt for the tollers," "these creatures," with many like endearing epithets. That sort of thing never counts for much when addressed to intelligent, self-respecting readers. Let it pass. Next we have an intimation that British Columbia must have a provincial income tax and a provincial poll tax because the Tax Act was copied from the Pacific Province Act. And what if it was? Is it the defender for being brought so far and forth-torn over the Rocky Mountains? Is it a merit that he comes to us ready made and is like most ready-made garments, a misfit? Surely there ought to be brains enough in our government and Legislature to shape our laws without importing cheap, ready-made stuff from the Pacific coast or from Nova Scotia. Was it for these mere scissors-work that the members were doubled, work that might have been done by a boy with a paste-pot?

A SCANDAL, NOT A JOKE

The Bell government has ceased to be a joke, it has become a scandal. Yesterday the body of a respected citizen lay all day in the Undertaker's room awaiting a Coroner who, doubtless for good reasons of his own, refused to act for the government. The Coroner who is a gentleman, did not divulge his reasons, but the public, remembering previous incidents, have inferred that it is the old trouble—the impossibility of getting the Bell government to pay its legal obligations. It is stated that a Coroner in the country absolutely refused to conduct an inquest until the government had paid the expenses in advance; he would not take the government's word for it! Many similar instances have occurred. Had the victim of yesterday's accident died where he fell the body would have remained on the ground all day exposed to the rain and snow. Fortunately for his friends he lived long enough to be taken to the shelter of the Undertaker's warehouse. It would be useless to ask what the trouble is or what the remedy is. The Bell government is getting rid of the trouble. It is useless to try to place the blame upon Premier Bell; the whole government is to blame and if they have any self respect or feelings of humanity they should not wait to be put out, they should go out.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Christmas spirit is already in the air. While remembering ours and ourselves let us not forget those who regard themselves as nobody's and who have no one to bless or be blessed by. Who is my neighbor? "Thy neighbor, it is he whom thou has power to aid and bless." Christmas is the season of blessing. Judge Cary, testifying before the Federal Trade Commission in the Pittsburgh plus case said that he did not believe a large corporation should take advantage of consumers even though sometimes able to do so. "There is a little more conscience in business than there used to be," he declared.

Southern Rhodesia Refuses

It may not be generally known that Southern Rhodesia, which recently voted against entering the South African Union, is administered by the British South Africa Company under charter. The registered voters elect a majority of the Legislative Council. But the total white population is little more than 30,000 in a country three times the area of England, with a native population of more than three-quarters of a million. Less than half of the whites are registered voters, and it is difficult for the average person to understand the reason for all this excitement over an issue to be determined by fewer people than vote in a single town in an ordinary country. But the colony was founded in a spirit of intense racialism, and this spirit survived and caused votes to be cast against incorporation in the Union of South Africa. Years ago it was told that the country was rich in minerals, that its agricultural possibilities were enormous, and that generally speaking, the climate was favorable to white settlers. Much money was ventured, the usual "boom" followed, and then the inevitable decline and depression.

Blaming the Government.

But the country is there, and it is all, or nearly all, that has been claimed for it, says the Boston Transcript. A considerable quantity of gold has been extracted, there has been a fair amount of railway development, and there is a growing confidence among agriculturists and cattle breeders when things, however, have not gone well, it has become the habit (common enough in all communities) to blame "the Government," and as in this case, the "Government" was a patchwork of semi-local administration, resident commissioners, and a final veto by the Colonial Office in London, the argument against "company administration" were readily found. It was claimed that the country had outgrown its early form of government, and that the Rhodesia should establish its own responsible Government or join with the South African Union. This had a strong case and a determined following. It was keenly critical of the Union's terms of incorporation, opposed the bilinguism involved by union, and attacked in detail the many matters, railway and other administration involved. General Smuts had been at great pains to put the Union side clearly before the Rhodesian electors. We paid a visit to Rhodesia and gave the people the opportunity of seeing and hearing him.

Smuts's Disregarded.

General Smuts knows the impossibility of either Dutch or British control in South Africa; he has for years, in season and out, preached that salvation is only to be found in co-operation of both races. But the Rhodesians knew that his own Parliamentary position was none too secure, that the Nationalist party was seeking agreement with the reviving Labour section to oppose the admission of Rhodesia to the Union that the few Rhodesian representatives might find themselves "swamped" in the Union Parliament should Smuts go under, and be irrevocably committed to a Government in which they had no voice.

Under the terms for the entrance of Southern Rhodesia into the Union:

Southern Rhodesia would be the fifth province of the Union and would be known as Rhodesia, English and Dutch would be the official languages and would enjoy equal rights. Rhodesia would send ten representatives to the House of Assembly, but provision was made for increasing this number to seventeen of the population of the new province increased. Rhodesia would at first have four elected and one nominated senators, but provision was made for an ultimate representation in the Senate of eight elected and two nominated members. The Provincial Council would consist of twenty members and would be similar to the councils of the other provinces comprised in the Union.

Attractive Terms.

In addition to the usual provincial subsidy Rhodesia was to get a special subsidy of \$250,000 a year for ten years as compensation for the loss of the poll tax and the other provinces of the Union.

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

Responsible Government Data

Sir—Would you kindly allow me to ask through the medium of your columns if anyone could tell me where to get an original material—such as files of newspapers—or copies of speeches delivered in Prince Edward Island or any of the Maritime Provinces, relative to the struggle for Responsible Government. The writer is engaged on a thesis upon that subject and would be extremely glad to receive any information whatever. Thanking you greatly for your consideration.

Clifton Bridge

Sir—Please permit me to correct some statements made to mislead the people of this province. I know your paper does not endorse opinions expressed by its correspondents, (and it is well it does not when the pen is in such hands as the party singing him a dirge, "Another New Londoner." I think his mind may be all right to review the past, but not to grapple with new problems.) He says my statements are not only false, but childish. Well, a person is once a man and twice a child, and I think my friend is probably right. I will not disagree with him, but he is wrong in saying that there is not a single spruce pile in the whole structure, whereas according to the government specification, they called for tenders for piles thirty feet long and not smaller than five inches diameter. Those are what he is trying to make the people believe were costly crooked pine. I will not disagree with him, but he is wrong in saying that he does not accept the lowest tender, he goes on to say he has watched the work at different stages; if he has, probably he can give the public some information they should have. I will ask him what he put on Clifton Bridge last year, as we see by the Public Accounts for 1920 for repairs; and why did they take the majority of gravel from one man, and pay him \$5.00 per yard from other parties for \$2.50 and clay. Why did they measure one man's load of gravel and judge another? This is the kind of work he claims our government and Mr. Kombe Webster should get credit for. I think he is unjust in respect for his own big salaries, and I will leave to the engineer should also get some credit. I will tell my learned friend when he makes statements, and refers to the Scripture, to go more slowly, and remember we read, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall have a multitude of sins forgiven." Now, I think I have made this clear to your readers, and I will leave to the judge for themselves who made the statements, and who is childish. When a bridge is built with a creosote pile on top and a five inch soft wood pile spliced on the bottom, I think they will agree with me that the bridge is settling on a five inch pile. Then I have only my learned friend to convince, and if his faith is as great as his understanding, let him dive to the bottom, and see how many of the splices are in the mud.

Wanted Exclusiveness.

The late Viscount was certainly not popular, especially in his early efforts to establish himself as a member of the British aristocracy. When he bought Hever Castle, one of the most beautiful properties in England he invested about \$10,000,000 to restore it as a Tudor village. He even cut a river through the estate, but, following out his ideas of exclusiveness, he planted his trees and shrubs so as to cut off all views from the outside. Before his ownership of Cliveden on the Thames picked up to land, but Astor shut off this privilege, and by doing so, contributed to his local unpopularity. In his lifetime it was rumored that his eldest son was not his father's favorite, because the young man was far too democratic for the old Tory. The Viscount's will indicated that this was true, for he left more of his fortune to the younger son. However, Lord Astor inherits Cliveden, while his younger brother takes Hever Castle. The Astor estate was so large that there are plenty of millions for both of them.

Political Ambitions.

In his lifetime the Viscount gave the Major property to the value of \$7,500,000, and on his marriage made his daughter in law a present of \$4,000,000, in addition to settling upon her an annuity of \$30,000. Major Astor's wife was Lady Violet Nairne, youngest daughter of the Earl of Minto. Her first husband was Lord Charles Mercer Nairne, a son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, who was killed in action in the war. Major Astor also distinguished himself in the struggle. He was an officer in the Life Guards, and lost a leg in the fighting. From 1912 to 1914 he was aide de camp to the Viceroy of India. At a by election a few months ago he was defeated by an anti-waste candidate. On that occasion it was noted that he did not have the support of his brother and his brilliant sister in law. That was because the Major is not a temperance reformer, but a straight Conservative. In the general elections he was successful, thus giving Lord Astor another reason for envying him, for the elder brother was formerly a member of the Commons and was loath to give up his seat when he succeeded to the title.

Owner of Times.

It was when he became automatically a member of the House of Lords that his wife determined to carry on the fight and enter Parliament, there being no law to disqualify peeresses from sitting in the Commons. Social reforms are dear to the Astors, and it is due to Lord Astor that the pure milk campaign was introduced in England. Lord and Lady Astor are interested in temperance reforms. They are not prohibitionists, but carried to their own dinner table. There is liquor for those who want it and water for those who do not. The Astors personally favor the water. It is believed that Major Astor may have an ambition to emulate Northcliffe in some respects and may become the owner of a chain of newspapers. It is estimated that his investment in The Times is between \$5,000,000 and \$7,000,000. This opportunity was presented to him, because in Northcliffe's first will there was a provision that the Walter family should have the option of purchasing the Northcliffe interests at the amount of the highest bid. Astor provided the money for taking up the shares. Otherwise the proposition would have remained in the possession of Lord Rothemere, Lord Northcliffe's brother.

ADVANTAGE OFFSET

"Boss, ain't you sorry you's bald-headed?" "Why, no, Sam; I haven't any hair to comb now." "Dat's so, boss; but you suttinly has a long face to wash." Better national anthem than "Keep the Home Fires Burning" would be, "Darling, I am Growing Cold."

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Astors Devoted To Service Of England

Writing of the present generation of Astors, Joseph W. Griggs, London correspondent of The New York World and The Mail and Empire, says that Lord Astor and Major Astor are trying to turn the blue blood they inherited from their father to red in their ambition to serve the British public. As one of the owners of The Times, Major Astor will undoubtedly exert unusual influence, while his brother is member of the House of Lords and the husband of the redoubtable Nancy. Lord Astor is also a large shareholder in The Sunday Observer, which is probably responsible for the particular attention that paper gives local option and all other proposals for temperance reform. The late Viscount Astor was a dabbler in journalism. For years he published a sumptuous and extremely uninteresting magazine and the evening newspaper, The Pall Mall Gazette. His ownership of the latter was responsible for the insertion of one of the most curious items a London newspaper had published for a generation. It briefly announced that on the previous evening Sir Barclay Milne had been an uninvited guest at the Astor home in Carlton House Terrace.

An Ornerly Host.

In those days Waldorf Astor used to give several musical evenings each year, at which the reigning stars in the world of music performed. Invitations were much prized. On one such occasion the Countess of Oxford, who had been invited, brought along her dinner party. She was greeted by her host, but when he noticed Sir Barclay Milne he demanded to know how he got in. He explained that he had come as one of the dinner party. Mr. Astor then told Milne that he had not been invited. Milne withdrew immediately, and so did the Countess and the rest of her party. The next day Astor had a report of the incident in his paper. His action was greatly resented, because Sir Barclay was popular, and a particular friend of King Edward, who was then Prince of Wales. The Prince is said to have sided with Sir Barclay, and this was given as one of the reasons why a title was so long coming to Waldorf Astor. On another occasion, when one of his grand parties was in full swing at Cliveden, he entered the ballroom at midnight, and holding up his hand, stopped the dance. Then he announced that he had ordered the carriages for one o'clock sharp. He was what Alfred Henry Lewis would call an ornerly host.

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S. A. McDONALD Specials for Friday and Saturday. Ladies Wool Hose 69c, Silk Cashmere Hose 48c, Wash Satin Camisoles \$1.25, Black and Navy Silk Bloomers \$2.95, Crepe Kimonos, all shades \$2.75, Envelope Chemise, (Pink and white Mull) \$1.50, White Cotton Nightgowns (lace and embroidery trimming) \$1.50, Jap and Habitall Silk Blouses \$3.98. REMNANTS: White Cotton (36 in.) 12c, Grey Cotton (36 in.) 10 & 12c, Imperial Flannelette, (Fancy Patterns) 19c, Mill ends of Duck (Brown, Blue, Khaki and Black) 25c. MANTLE CLOTH: All Wool Velour Coating, Regular \$4.00 for \$1.50, Paillette (light shades) \$2.25 for 98c. FOR MEN: Heavy Sweater Coat \$1.89, All Wool Underwear (Red Label) Garment \$1.49, Mocha Gloves \$1.75, Lined Dogskin Gloves \$1.75, Negligee Shirts 98c, Better Shirts at \$1.25, Mackinaw Coats \$7.50, Dark Tweed Overcoats \$13.50, Fancy Check Overcoat \$18.00, Black Milton Overcoat (Chesterfield) \$25.00. FOR BOYS: Golf Hose for (small sizes) 69c, Larger sizes Golf Hose 89c, Long all Wool Black Stockings 59c, Fine Heather Rib Half Hose 89c, Boys Mackinaw Coats \$6.00, Boys Overcoats \$4.98. Ladies Dresses: Serges and Homespuns at \$7.95, Jumper Dresses for \$5.00, Silk Dresses for \$12.00, Tricotine Dresses for \$12.00, All our Regular High Class Stock. Get to the Store Early for a Good Choice. S. A. McDONALD

Daily Selections For Guardian Readers. From the W. S. Louson collection. THE BEST IN LIFE. If you desire the best that life can give, it is not money that will win for you. The ever present joys that live through and through. Nor is it what the foolish count as Fame, often a poor and empty thing at best. A paltry list of letters to your name adds naught to life of zest. The best in life is given into those who know the secret of a happy smile. That radiates as perfume from the rose; Who gladly help a lame dog o'er the stile; Who, having little, as the world might say, Are rich in friends, such riches are untold. They last unto the ending of the day. And count for more than gold. GIVE. No man is so poor as to have nothing worth giving; as well as might the mountain streamlets say they have nothing to give the sea, because they are not rivers. Give what you have; to someone it may be better than you dare to think. England is Busy Watching the Stork. (Special to The Guardian) LONDON, Dec 6—England's "interesting event" now appears at least two weeks nearer than previously expected. With Queen Mary about to join her daughter, Princess Mary Lascelles at Harewood Hall where the latter is now stopping, the visit of a Lascelles pier or pier is predicted within two weeks at the outside, possibly one week. We call your attention to the only of being without insurance. No one ever expects fires, or invades of the hundred and one things that overtake a man and force him to start all over again at the first rung of the ladder but they happen just the same. Insurance is the only safe-guard. We write liberal policies in strong companies at reasonable rates. Security and Service. Hyndman & Co. Ltd. The Oldest Insurance Agency in P. E. I.