

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1924

THE PLATFORM COLLAPSED

The collapse of the Liberal platform at the St. Antoine meeting the other night was as pathetic as it was prophetic. The Rt. Hon. MacKenzie King, and his Liberal candidate, Mr. Hushion and the Hon. Mr. Cardin, Minister of Marine and Fisheries were appropriately ranged in a row along the front of the platform; behind them were the rank and file of signallers whose duty it was to start the applause; behind the front row was the table fittingly draped for the occasion and on it a pitcher of water to cool the parched tongue of the speaker. The Liberal candidate had got underway and was warming up in eloquent laudation of the Prime Minister, the blessings that had been showered upon his beloved country during the beneficent reign of the "uncrowned King," and the still greater blessings to follow. "It is this way," he declared, with dramatic fervor—when down went the platform, the rear rank on top, the front below! The orator, when he felt the earth going from beneath his feet, said something which had no connection with the political situation and which was variously interpreted by those nearest him. The Prime Minister happened to be under the water pitcher and as the ice cold water trickled down under his collar onto his manly bosom he thought the "icy hand" had got its grip on him and that his brief but strenuous political career was over. How the Minister of Marine and Fisheries fared is not stated. It was evident from the liveliness of the scuffle that ensued that they were not all killed as the feet of the victims could be seen above the mass of humanity each foot proclaiming its vitality and many of them painfully impressing the fact upon the bewildered countenances in the neighborhood.

The Prime Minister, who had previous experiences with broken platforms, was one of the first to "discover" that he was not dead and he announced his discovery to the audience, many of whom learned with a feeling of relief that he had not been cut off at the present stage of his political career and without further preparation. It was a tragic scene and the Liberal candidate, who has more faith in omens than in his political foundation, accepted the "sign" as emblematic of what is going to happen in St. Antoine Division on September 2nd. The meeting was spoiled. The things that were said were not the things that had been pre-arranged for the edification of the electors and a gloom settled on the visages of those who had hoped for favors from the to-be-elected representative. The belief now generally prevails in St. Antoine that what happened the Liberal platform on Monday night is going to happen to Liberal hopes on Tuesday next.

A POLITICAL UTILITY

The Canadian National Railway system was taken out of politics and Sir Henry Thornton gave it to be distinctly understood that he would tolerate no political interference with his management. Evidence is rapidly accumulating that Sir Henry has more than once, like Lord Nelson, placed the telescope to his blind eye. It is somewhat significant that, just at present, when there is a general outcry against the political

influence being exercised in connection with the bye-election in Rimouski, that Sir Henry Thornton made a vigorous public defence of the government's non-political attitude at North Bay a few days ago. His defence is not being taken seriously at Ottawa. Indeed it is regarded as suspiciously political. The evidence at hand refutes Sir Henry's defence of the Government and conclusively proves that in elections, appointments and commercial patronage the Government influence is used for Government purposes. Last year the Canadian National Railway had equipment orders to place, and after one was secured for Amherst, N. S., the president of the car company in that town wrote the following letter testifying to the political influence of the local Liberal member in the Canadian National management:

Montreal, May, 29, 1923  
Mr. R. D. Crawford,  
Secy Board of Trade, Amherst, N. S.  
Dear Sir.—Through the persistence and influence of Mr. Hance Logan, your local member of Parliament, we have finally succeeded in getting the Canadian National Railways to give us an order to change over five hundred or more box cars into stock cars, for our Amherst plant.

This is a very satisfactory arrangement for us and should be to your people of Amherst.

Mr. Logan has been waiting in his efforts to get this business to credit for it, as I don't think it would have been possible to have secured this business except through Mr. Logan.

Very truly yours,  
W. M. BUTLER,  
President.

This letter was displayed throughout Amherst, as proof that the golden days of patronage on the inter-colonial had returned under the Liberal control of that system. There was no rebuke from the president of the National Railways.

In two bye-elections, North Cape Breton, N. S., and Halifax, N. S., the activity and influence of the Canadian National Railways on behalf of the Government was so flagrant as to call forth strong protests, but Sir Henry Thornton contented himself with deprecating privately such partisan activity, but publicly did nothing. In Rimouski by-election the Canadian National Railway management are permitting their plans for economy to be countermanded to suit the political exigencies of the Government. So far this political operation of the National system has not been challenged by the president.

In the new appointments to the railway directorate, Sir Henry, in his defence of the Government, is preparing to perpetuate the partisan management after having declared to a dozen people that he would insist on a non-partisan directorate.

It was in the notorious branch lines' program that the Government's political control of the National system was made most apparent. To the program prepared by the railway officials, the Government insisted on "political railways being added, and the president acquiesced. So unjustifiable were these roads that the company's officials at Ottawa were ashamed to advocate their adoption by Parliament.

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Notes By The Way

At the Liberal meeting in Pownal on Monday evening the mutual admiration of the several speakers for each other was a familiar and yet noteworthy feature. It was familiar because it was a reminder of the old days when the Bell Government was in office and with the House in session some twenty five honorable members spent weeks upon weeks by day and night singing songs of praise about each other and lauding what they conceived to be the Best of All Governments. Still in those days they failed to convince the people that the Government was good or that they themselves were wise, prudent and patriotic as they thought themselves to be.

At Pownal Mr. D. A. McKinnon, M. P., referred to the honor extended to his province by the appointing of his colleague, Hon. John E. Sinclair to a seat in the Cabinet. We quote from the authorized report: It ought to be an honor to both Mr. Sinclair and the Province that he was thus called. But it was not always that the Liberal organ thought so highly of a mere Cabinet seat without salary, or a number of years of the late Hon. Donald Ferguson held a seat in the Conservative Cabinet at Ottawa and during all those years he was constantly sneered at by the same journal as "a Minister without portfolio," "a forecastle Minister," and, able and worthy public man as he was, he was reproached in its columns for accepting and holding a position that was humiliating to himself and to the province.

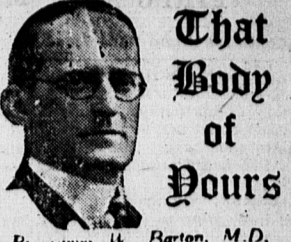
Our province is small, its people are few and we cannot expect always to be represented in the Ottawa Cabinet. We think it desirable, however, if we cannot have a salaried head of a Department in the Cabinet, that we shall still have an official representative within that charmed circle. To our mind this is equally desirable and the position is of itself equally honorable whether a Conservative or a Liberal Government is in power. Whether it is or shall be equally useful depends upon the ability, influence and character of the man who is chosen to fill the place. "Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

Another feature of note in the Liberal series of meetings is that all of the leading speakers have thought it necessary to "balance the federal budget," or to assert that it has been balanced. Thus at Pownal, Mr. D. A. McKinnon said, "Every one was relieved when it was announced that the budget was balanced." Mr. Sinclair went a little further and said, "This was the first time in ten years that the revenue was greater than the expenditure." Both these gentlemen know very well that the point is in dispute. They heard it disputed in the House. Every Conservative newspaper in Canada so far as our reading goes has denied it. The financial journals of the Dominion have in no case that we know of accepted the claim that the budget has been balanced. A number of them have disputed it and the others treated it as a party claim and not established as a fact.

The Toronto Globe, chief organ of the Liberal party, had too much honest self-respect to lend any support to the party, claim, as we pointed out at the time, and plainly implied its doubt. It would be worth a mint of political capital to the party in power if the Globe would endorse the claim of the balanced budget, as no doubt it has been urged to do, but the endorsement is not forthcoming. What is the claim worth? Just this, that it is a fiction and not a fact; it is not credited or believed by one-half of the intelligent Liberal electorate or one quarter of the intelligent electors of the country.

"That is why the parrot cry of 'balanced budget' is repeated by cheap politicians at every political meeting and by a few second-class Liberal newspapers with whom unvarnished in the party interest is akin to virtue. But the stubborn lie has about run its course. Already it has nearly run itself to death. We doubt whether it will be heard of a year hence when again the public accounts of reduced receipts and larger expenditures have come under review. It may then perhaps be recalled along with that ancient chronicle of a man and his wife whose account of their land sale and the price received was audited by the Apostle Peter with very tragic results.

There is growing evidence that the party advocates are becoming ashamed of this fictitious balance. At their public meetings their hearers listen to the phrase in silent incredulity. In the Liberal



Dr. James W. Barton, M.D.

THOUGHTS FROM AN OBSERVING PHYSICIAN

A physician, of high standing, was asked what were the big factors in getting sick people well. "Of course the degree of illness varies with people and likewise their powers of resistance. Scarlet fever attacks two children in the same home. One is only slightly ill, has but a faint rash, scarcely any throat trouble. The other is very ill, has a most brilliant rash, and has nose, throat, and perhaps heart complications.

But generally speaking where I know the family, from the father to the youngest child, I generally know what I'm up against and try to act accordingly. The biggest help I have is where the patient has that very valuable asset—common sense. I don't hesitate to discuss his case frankly with him, because the day of "mystery" in medicine is past. The physician of to-day knows vastly more than the physician of yesterday, and so likewise does the average layman.

I point out to him what has happened, and the necessity for his co-operation in the treatment. The second thing is the "grit" in people. That desire to get on their feet and about their work again. One who is not satisfied to remain an "invalid."

I have to be careful with such cases, but it is certainly a help in getting well, to have him show this disposition, this desire to get on his feet again. And the third thing I like, and that is of great help, is where the patient not only has common sense, and grit, but where he is willing to follow out your advice to the very letter.

This may mean a change in his own plans, a check on his desire to get up too soon, but also some considerable inconvenience to him when he is beginning to get around again. You may advise early hours, perhaps cutting down on his smoking, a change in his diet, a daily walk. All this may be irksome, but your ideal patient will carry it out faithfully. I just thought I would pass the thoughts of this physician along to you. It might help all of us.

Your Birthday

AUGUST 28—You are very methodical and never act impulsively. You like to know how and why things are done, and while you do not accomplish things quickly, you are generally accurate. You should be very careful in your love affairs, and not marry hastily. Your birth-stone is the sardonyx, which means a happy married life. Your flower is the poppy. Your lucky colors are orange and red.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

LAUGHING SONG  
When the green woods laugh with the voice of joy,  
And the dimpling stream runs laughing by,  
When the air does laugh with our merry wit,  
And the green hill laughs with the noise of it;

When the meadows laugh with lively green,  
And the grasshopper laughs in the merry scene,  
When Mary and Susan and Emily  
With their sweet round mouths sing Ha, ha, he!

When the painted birds laugh in the shade,  
When our table with cherries and nuts is spread,  
Come live and be happy and join with me  
To sing the sweet chorus of Ha, ha, he!

—William Blake.

CAMBRIDGE DEBATERS

HALIFAX, Aug. 27.—The Canada-United States tour of the Cambridge Union debating team will open at Halifax on September 29, when the Old Country collegians will meet the debating team of Dalhousie University, according to an announcement made here tonight.

where a few months ago it was harped upon in articles of column length. At Pownal neither Mr. McKinnon nor Mr. Sinclair ventured to say that they believed a real balance had been effected. Mr. McKinnon spoke guardedly of it as something that had been "announced" and Mr. Sinclair casually intimated that such a thing had not occurred in ten years before. It is still open to either of them to say that he does not believe the budget has been balanced and

Egypt Challenges Britain in Soudan

Will Britain have to fight again for mastery of the Soudan—ranked as one of the greatest potential sources of the world's future cotton supply—which Kitchener first conquered for the Empire a quarter of a century ago after General Gordon had been wiped out at Khartoum? With British troops and planes being rushed to the British capital, and General Allenby, British High Commissioner in Egypt, summoned in council by the British Labor Ministers, this question is being asked seriously, due to the outbreak of disorders in 1,000,000 square miles of the territory lying south of Egypt. The outbreaks, which may herald a nation-wide revolt, followed the flat declaration of Premier Ramsay MacDonald to the effect that Great Britain will not surrender control of the Soudan to Egypt, writes the London correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune. A visit to London at an early date is expected from the Egyptian Premier, Zaghlul Pasha, for negotiations in which the future status of the territory will be one of the principal subjects for discussion.

Begin by Cadets

The disturbances now alarming Khartoum began when cadets of the Egyptian military school staged an armed demonstration in the streets. This was followed by a more serious outbreak at Baha, when Egyptian railroad troops broke loose and committed disorders until British troops were compelled to fire on the rioters. Other Egyptian railroad troops broke into the barracks at Port Soudan and indulged in similar riotous behavior. Although the disorders have not been on a large scale, their gravity lies in the fact that as seen here they are part of a concerted agitation, staged to influence negotiations to be held here between MacDonald and Zaghlul Pasha. The viewpoint of the British Labor Government hinges on the firm conviction that there is no justice in the claim that the Soudan should be owned by Egypt and ruled from Cairo. It is argued that the very principles which evoked British sympathy for Egypt in that country's struggle for independence can now be invoked against her demand for the Soudan.

Egyptians Would Suffer

The country today is governed by an Anglo-Egyptian service, in which all the senior officials are British. They are only a few British troops, however, the main army being Egyptian. The object of the Egyptian agitation is to create an impression that popular feeling in the Soudan favors control of that territory by the Egyptian Government, but in official circles here it is asserted the Soudanese are more or less contented under British administration and are hostile only to the Egyptians. This latter claim is certainly borne out by the past history of the country. Egyptian agitators are seen here as playing with a double-edged weapon in trying to foment armed insurrection in a country which is one of the most inflammable in the world. It is claimed the Egyptians would be the first to suffer if the British allowed this agitation to take its course, and the insubordination thus let loose would spread to the fanatical Soudanese tribesmen, who have a military record of long standing.

Soudan Prosperity Near

Continuance of British control was never more necessary than it is at this moment when the Soudan is on the eve of an era of abundant prosperity, it is asserted. The big Nile dam scheme is in progress and will bring under irrigation cultivation some hundreds of thousands of acres of the finest cotton producing lands in the world. This is one basis for Egypt's demand for possession of the Soudan. The Egyptians assert the dam scheme may interfere with the water supply on which Egypt is dependent. The MacDonald Government is fully prepared to meet this point of the Egyptian claim, by some arrangement whereby England is put in suppressing the control of the water supply will not be exclusively in British hands.

MacDonald Is Firm

At the same time this Government is inflexibly opposed to handing over the Soudan to Egyptian rule. The effect of the present disorders probably will be precisely the reverse of what may be expected in Egypt. Premier MacDonald is likely to challenge Zag-

Woman Sails Ship On Pacific Lanes

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 27.—The big freighter Atlantic, of the Pan-Pacific line, is somewhere on the Pacific ocean with a woman at the helm—for part of the time, at least. Miss Helen Olsen, comely, 21 year old daughter of Captain O. Olson, skipper of the big steamer, is a seaman on board the vessel, and at times takes the wheel with the other quartermasters. She is on the ship's payroll, too, and therefore is a full fledged seaman in the eyes of the United States.

"Commander" Montgomery, veteran shipping commissioner who has grown old in the service at the customs house here declared firmly that "nar ya woman" had ever before signed on as a sailor in his experience. The pretty young mariner will sail with the vessel from here to west coast ports of South America and return to Portland via New York. "I'd like to be a captain some day, just like my daddy," she said, when asked whether she thought she would like the trip. "I'd never be anybody's stenographer when I can get a job like this."

Elevator Makes Millionth Journey

(By Dominion News Service) LONDON, Aug. 27.—Robertson, the attendant of the main lift at the Savoy, and probably the best-known lift attendant in the world, drove his moving room of gold and red lacquer towards the skies for the millionth time just before lunch-time yesterday. The achievement was registered on a dial in the engine-rooms below, where every journey of all the lifts has been automatically registered since their installation. Robertson has been driving his own lift for eighteen years. For the last three days he has been kept informed at frequent intervals of the figures on the dial, and yesterday morning he began to count the journeys himself. Having completed the 999,999th he went in search of three people who had been warned of the approaching moment. Then the ceremony of the millionth journey began.

Drinking His Health

In the lift were Judge Haslitt, of New York, who was an unknown lawyer twenty years, was one of the first of Robertson's passengers; an elderly, white haired guest who has been a twice yearly visitor to the Savoy for years, and a well-known London business man, who, living on the third floor, is Robertson's most regular passenger. A table bearing glasses, stood discreetly in a corner. For the millionth time the lacquer room ascended with its accustomed serenity. On the top floor it paused for a moment. The three passengers raised their glasses to the stately figure in blue and silver—who, a few minutes later, had registered a few more journeys towards his second million.

with the flat intimation that Egyptian officials and troops cannot be allowed to remain in the Soudan if their presence there is incompatible with the country's peace and order. This viewpoint will harden in direct proportion with the amount of trouble to which present disorders.

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