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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

MONDAY JULY 20, 1903.

THE REPRESENTATION QUESTION.

We are glad to know that the Provincial Government, as was announced in this journal yesterday, will take an appeal to the Privy Council from the Supreme Court's decision on the representation question. We feel sure that although the appeal will necessarily involve a considerable cost, the people of this Province will generally approve of it. In fact we feel that the Government would be guilty of a grave dereliction of duty were the adverse decision of the Supreme Court to be permitted to remain unchallenged. We say this not because we feel certain that our appeal will be sustained, although we strongly hope that it will be sustained. But it is our last chance to vindicate our rights before a judicial tribunal, and in view of the appalling prospect of seeing our representation at Ottawa diminishing to the vanishing point, we cannot afford to neglect the one last chance of averting such disaster.

We have hope in an appeal to the Privy Council mainly from the fact that our cause is just. Our people and their representatives one and all from first to last believed that the Island was to be represented by not fewer than six members. In the negotiation our representatives clung to this point and believed that they had gained it. Between them and the representatives of Canada there was no "meeting of minds," no mutual consent to any other proposition than a representation of six. In the second place we have hope for our appeal from the fact that the Privy Council in a long series of decisions upon Canadian constitutional questions has always taken a broad and liberal view of provincial rights, has considerably enlarged the scope of the provincial authority, and has always stood as a bulwark against the attempted encroachments of the federal power. On several occasions in which individually or collectively a Province or several Provinces have been appellants to the court of last resort against the decision of Canadian courts their appeal has been sustained.

Finally, in view of the consequences which must result to this Province from the decision of the Canadian Supreme Court if permitted to go into effect, we have hope that our appeal shall be sustained. Our representation has been already actually reduced from six to five and stands now to be further reduced from five to four. One third of our membership in the Commons is swept away. And with the doubled area of Quebec and the new areas in the added territory of that Province now being opened to settlement by a costly system of railways, contrasted with our circumscribed possibilities as to growth and expansion, further decades must see further reductions of our representation from four to three, from three to two and from two to one. This will almost inevitably occur if the judgment of the Supreme Court is to stand as law. It is with us a fight for existence, a struggle against an almost intolerable condition of things never contemplated when we entered the union, and which had it then been known would have made our people a unit in refusing the terms of union. Nothing short of armed force and vastly superior numbers could have compelled our people to accept such terms and conditions as those with which the decision of the Supreme Court has now brought us face to face. We have hope therefore that the Privy Council, taking a broader and juster view of our case than was taken at Ottawa, will decree our liberation.

It is to be further observed, while to our small and isolated Province this question of representation is so vital, a question of political life or death—that no harm, or loss, no danger or menace, or wrong can come to the Dominion from a recognition of our rights in this matter On the contrary it would be a gain to the Dominion to have every Province content with the terms of union recognising the bond of federation as the silken tie of happy wedlock rather than the intolerable fetters of injustice. For, if we are to be subjected to the perpetual reduction of our representation until it is all swept away, what will be the Island's position in the Dominion but that of a prisoner in close confinement, or possibly that of an enemy within the gates, and certainly a source of weakness rather than of strength to the nation? These are some of the weighty matters which surround and give weight to the appeal which we are about to make to the foot of the throne.

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6 "	" "	1.35	for .78
3 doz.	White Lawn Waists	1.05	for .60
2 "	" " "	1.20	for .77
3 doz.	White Lawn Waists, tucked,	1.35	for .82
4 "	" " " "	1.75	for 1.05
2 "	" " " embroidered	2.10	for 1.30
4 "	" " " insertion	2.30	for 1.55
5 "	" " " "	2.75	for 1.60
1½ "	" " " Swiss	3.25	for 2.10
6½ "	Wrappers Colored	1.25	for .75
3 "	" "	2.50	for 1.75

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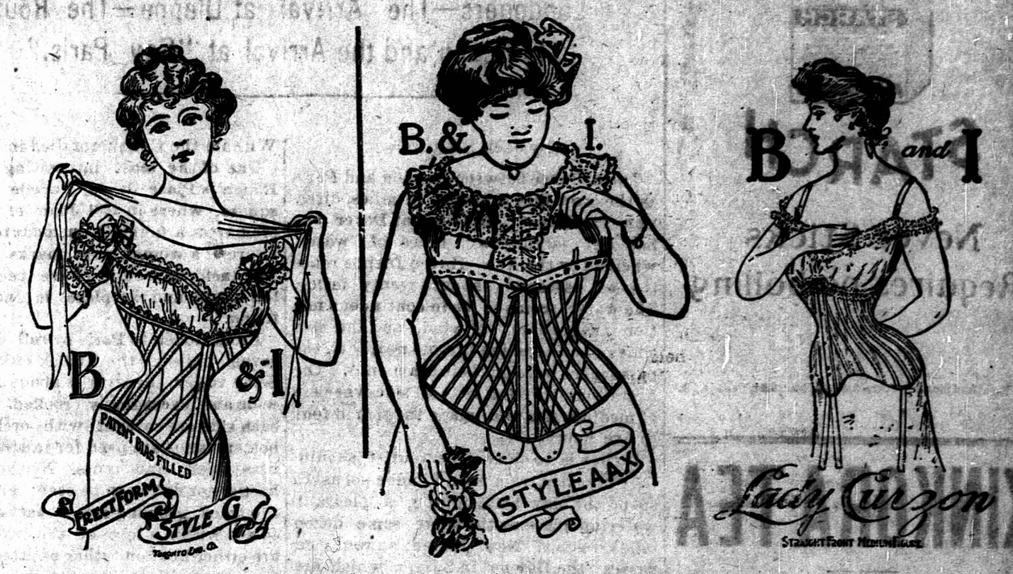

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The Patriot's Ottawa correspondent tells that Mr. McKinnon M. P. having grown "impatient with the negotiations of the Anglo-American Telegraph Telegraph Company directors, is now negotiating for a new service, and it is likely to be in operation within three months." This is good news. It is good to learn that Mr. McKinnon has become impatient of longer delay. This will place him more in sympathy with the impatient thousands of people down here. We hope he may succeed in his negotiations for a new and better service, and when it is established we shall be among the first to tender our hearty congratulations.

It is announced that Hon. Mr. Blair will leave Ottawa at the end of the session and will reside in Saint John. It is also stated that he "could accept any office in the gift of the Government." This is extremely probable, but it is by no means so probable that he will do so. The Government would no doubt like very much to conciliate so able and influential an opponent of their railway policy. But as Mr. Blair stands pledged to oppose that policy in Parliament he is not likely to accept an office from the Government. Had he been willing to accept office and not oppose the policy of his late colleagues that would have been arranged without giving publicity in such terms as have been published, of his pointed opposition to their policy. We cannot see how Mr Blair could now accept office without stultifying himself, a thing he is not likely to do.

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Tenders For Buildings.

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SATURDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 190

for the Wooden Buildings required on the Murray Harbor Branch: NINE STATIONS, TWO WATER TANKS, ONE ENGINE-HOUSE.

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All the conditions of the specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER,
General Manager

Railway Office
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7-11 dtl30.

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