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DIARY OF EVENTS

TO-DAY.

City Magistrate's Court, 9 a. m.
P. E. I. Poultry Show opens, Agricultural Hall, 7.30 p. m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1913.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE

At the time the first Confederation Conference was held in Charlottetown we had as our guests the most distinguished men of the day. Never before or since have so many notable men been on the Island together.

In September 1914 we have an opportunity of repeating the experience. Are we any less able to entertain such distinguished guests now than we were 50 years ago?

We shall here give a few extracts from that very rare book "The Union of the British Provinces" being a brief account of the several conferences held in the Maritime Provinces and in Canada in September 1864 on the proposed confederation of the provinces, together with a brief report of the speeches delivered by the delegates from the provinces on important occasions" compiled by the Hon. Edward Whelan, and for a copy of which we are indebted to Mr. A. A. McLean, M.P.

Before leaving Charlottetown a committee composed of the Executive Council of Prince Edward Island and some of the most prominent citizens of the capital had made arrangements for an entertainment at a hall and banquet, the distinguished delegates from the other provinces, together with the lady friends and others who had accompanied them. The entertainment was given at the Provincial Building at Charlottetown, on the evening of the 8th September. Members of both branches of the Legislature, as well as the principal office-holders were invited as the guests of the committee; and no expense or trouble was spared to make the entertainment worthy of the occasion, creditable to the Island, and acceptable to its guests, who were unanimous in expressing their appreciation of the generous spirit which prompted and characterized the festivity.

At the banquet Col. Grey, the leader of the Government of Prince Edward Island, presided. In reply to the toast of "His Excellency, the Governor-General and the Governors of the Maritime Provinces," the Hon. George Dundas, Lieut-Governor of Prince Edward Island expressed great satisfaction at the auspicious meeting of so many distinguished gentlemen from the neighboring provinces, whose convention would, he trusted, be conducive to the best interests of Her Majesty's subjects on this side of the Atlantic—enabling them to form as it would a more extensive acquaintances with our people and their resources than could be acquired in our present isolated condition and thus greatly enlarge the commercial and social intercourse between the several provinces.

The chairman, in proposing "Our distinguished Guests," said he had no doubt but that he was giving utterance to the sentiment of all the people of the Island in expressing pleasure and entire gratification that this visit to our Island home of some of the ablest statesmen of Canada and the adjoining provinces. He sincerely and confidently believed that this visit would be productive of much good, and serve as a happy harbinger of such a union of sentiment and interests among the 3,500,000 of freemen who then inhabited British America as neither time nor change could ever destroy.

The Hon. Dr. Tupper, Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, felt, he said, he would not do justice to the people of Prince Edward Island did he not render on his own behalf, as well as for all the delegates present his sincere and heart-felt thanks to the Government of this Island and all classes of the community for the generous hospitality and good will manifested by them towards their brethren from the other provinces who were then assembled in Charlottetown on a mission the momentous character of which he would not then attempt to describe.

The Hon. Adams G. Archibald was so elated with the success and harmony of this first Conference that he declared it would be the proudest day in the history of British America, when they would unite, hand in hand, and form a nation which, in all the elements that constitute real greatness, might be ranked as a third or fourth on the face of the globe. Well, then, said he, may we be proud of the inauguration here of a movement which at no very distant day will be

looked upon as one of the greatest and most important events of the present age.

The Hon. M. Johnson, Attorney-General of New Brunswick, concluded his remarks by expressing his gratification at the progress which had marked this Island since his last visit some 20 years before. It had been said that when you see one scene on the Island you will see all, such being the sameness of its scenery and its characteristic slowness. This, from his own personal knowledge, he could contradict; for that which 20 years ago might be considered as barely attractive, was now extremely captivating—that which was then undeveloped and unimproved, has grown in beautiful proportion, rendering Prince Edward Island a place of no mean importance in British America, and one also which would be very materially benefited in all its relations by its union with the other provinces.

Hon. Col. John Hamilton Grey, M. P. P., for St. John, N. B., expressed in chaste and eloquent terms his high appreciation of the hospitality of the people of Prince Edward Island, "which," he said, "would not be readily effaced from the memory of the delegates."

The Hon. T. H. Haviland, M.P.P., in reply to the toast of the "Army and Navy," proposed by the Hon. John Longworth, M.P.P., said never was there such an important meeting as that held before in the history of British America; and it may yet be said that here, in little Prince Edward Island, was that union formed which has produced one of the greatest nations on the face of the earth.

In reply to the toast of "Fraternal Feeling," Mr. Frederick de St. Croix Frecken, M.P.P., for Charlottetown, said he could not refrain from expressing the gratification he experienced at hearing from the distinguished visitors how favorably they were impressed with what they had seen of the Island, and that they would return to their homes with new and enlarged ideas of our capabilities.

These are the feelings that animated the Islanders and their visitors at the time of Confederation.

Are we fifty years later, to allow ourselves to be outdone in enterprise, loyalty and hospitality in the celebration of the Jubilee of that first historic Conference?

OUR FISHERIES

The total marketed value of fish of all kinds taken in Canadian waters during the year 1911-12 was \$34,667,872.

Of this amount salmon contributed \$10,333,070; lobsters, \$4,790,203; cod \$4,201,760; herring about half the latter amount; clams and quahaugs \$332,801 and oysters \$212,296, other varieties in smaller quantities making up the balance.

Of the above values Prince Edward Island contributed as follows:—Salmon \$676; lobsters \$831,519; oysters \$61,815; smelts \$39,816; clams and quahaugs \$32,372; mackerel \$33,360; cod \$82,813; herring \$70,067 with other varieties in smaller quantities making a total of \$1,196,396. There were engaged in the fisheries during the year, in the province, 5,858 men and the value of the equipment, vessels, boats, nets, traps &c. was \$641,731.

Figures are proverbially dry but the above are especially interesting and should be kept for future reference. The statistics for the year 1912-13 are not yet available but will shortly be issued by the Department. When published they will, we believe, show a large increase over those above given; the mackerel catch during the past year was a phenomenally large one and will greatly swell the aggregate value of the year's product.

It has become a stereotyped expression that Prince Edward Island is an agricultural country. This is undoubtedly true but it is more; it is a fur farming country, a fishing country, a commercial country, a manufacturing country.

In the commercial line we have done fairly well; in fur farming we have made a most promising beginning; in manufacturing enough has been done to demonstrate very clearly that long avenues still lie open before us that in the not distant future will be exploited.

In the fishing business we have not made the progress that our opportunities and our advantages would lead us to hope for. We have at our doors the unlimited resources of the Atlantic and even of the Arctic; we have harbors all round our province; we have bays and rivers capable of indefinite development; we have, in short, every advantage that is open to any maritime people. Yet we have done no development work; we have simply drawn year after year on what we have treated as inexhaustible resources, to find that in some cases at least they are not only exhausted but exhausted. We have depleted our oyster beds—the richest in the world—to almost the vanishing point; we have almost exhausted our lobster supply; we have cleaned up our trout supplies until now scarcely

MR. LLOYD GEORGE

(By T. L. Garvin, Editor of Pall Mall Gazette)

Age cannot stiffen the suppleness of Mr. Lloyd George, who, upon his first visit to Oxford a decade ago, showed a most instant and remarkable example of adaptation to environment. Since then he has sung high and low through all the notes between Limehouse and Lullaby. His second speech at the Union was again a most diverting example of sweet and confiding discourse. Considering that the subject was the land and what harangues on the same theme had preceded, the spectacle of the Chancellor cooing like a sucking-dove was among the most changing performances since Bully Bottom. Mr. Lloyd George suggested that the Unionists had no land policy. If the charge were true, how unhandsome for the accuser to make it. Even those who caught the Whigs bathing and stole their clothes did not stand on the bank and reproach their victims for nakedness.

Mr. Lloyd George is the sedulous appropriator of present affairs. It is doubtful whether he has contributed a single original idea to legislation. We question whether even his unadorned expedients have ever been his own. As an agitator he seems ready to found a whole policy upon the last metaphor by which a persuasive supporter has warmed his sympathetic imagination. When he changes his executive role as quickly as his oratorical manner and reap appears as the adjuster and reconciler in politics—much his best part, in our opinion—he likes to take the different schemes of several slower people and put them together with audacity, dexterity and dispatch.

So when he became President of the Board of Trade, and for a brief period enjoyed golden opinions as a moderate man, he passed excellent measures for which he found most of his legislative matter in the pigeon-hole. Then he took his Red Budget from Mr. Philip Snowden. The latter still goes up and down the country not only protesting that his pet plan was spoiled in the stealing, but that the fate of his kidnapped offspring was worse than Solomon's Judgment. Then came the Insurance Act. Compulsory National Insurance was advocated as a principle in this country by some advanced Unionists before the Chancellor he heard of it. When he awakened to the existence of such a policy he rushed off to see how much of it he could borrow after studying on a single flying visit the whole vast code of legislation which it had taken Germany twenty years to elaborate. Again, he hopelessly marred and jarred everything. He marred matters by the mere cruelty of the flat-rate, though in sheer precipitancy he meant it to be simple by comparison with the more discriminating methods of the patient and plodding Leuton. His jarred matters by the bullying levity with which he drove the whole ill-considered scheme through Parliament.

Take next his theme at the Oxford Union—the land? What is good in that policy he has borrowed from Unionists; what is bad he has doubtless borrowed from somebody else. When he speaks of the extension of the principle of the Trade Boards Act for the benefit of other low-paid workers on the land and elsewhere, can we forget that the Trade Boards Act was mainly Lord Milner's actual work? It was carried for its own sake without the least thought of votes to be gained by it. For ten years Tariff Reformers have never tired of dwelling upon the state of British agriculture, the lot of the rural labourer, the importance of rural labourers are left in our rivers to make a decent excuse for a holiday.

It is pleasing to find that we have realized this condition in connection with the oyster business and that a movement is at last on foot which will not only save this great asset but multiply it indefinitely. Of the 30,000 acres surveyed in Richmond Bay alone, 5,000 have already been leased to ten companies with an aggregate capital of over half a million (\$518,000); there are 10,000 acres of excellent bottom still available for leasing while 14,000 have been reserved for public fishing. This is something, indeed it is very much, considering the short space of time in which it was done, and carries great promise for the future of an industry which bids fair to become one of the greatest on the continent.

But what of the others? The lobster supply is in a fair way to become depleted. Some attention, some means of conservation, scientifically applied would save this great industry. Our trout streams could be restocked and made valuable. Our quahaugs and clams, if cared for, would ensure a rich annual harvest for our fishermen and even our sea-fisheries, of which we know so little and from which we are drawing with little thought for the future, would afford a profitable field for study. We know little about our fisheries except that they are among the greatest in the world and that with proper attention they could be made as profitable as those of Scotland and Norway.

generating the condition of both. When through all these years did Unionist thinkers get a fair chance for their arguments? They were met by nothing but the coarsest exploitation of the claptrap cry about the dear loaf. Mr. Balfour affirmed and re-affirmed a large agricultural policy at the last two General Elections.

The Oxford historical school no longer disdains even the most modern researches. For Mr. Lloyd George to appear at the Union as the Columbus of the land problem would mean a hardihood approaching the sublime but for the unhappy fact that a large part of his power lies in his real unconsciousness of what has been thought and done before him. He rejoices in the natural instincts of the unburdened mind; his practical optimism often reminds us of the joyous fowl which cackles as though a new egg had never before been laid in the world.

The Chancellor then, after expounding what without winking he calls his policy, asks Unionists to tell him what is their policy. Well, they are not going to repudiate their own ideas because he has "coveyed" them. We shall continue to point out that a deal of good Unionist wheat goes with the chaff added to make up the very mixed proposals of the catchvote campaign. But above all, there remains distinctive of the Unionist spirit the principle which nothing else can replace—Ownership, ownership, ownership. The Chancellor is a land nationaliser at heart who wants the rural workers to pay rent to the State. That in our circumstances means tribute to the towns. Unionists know that nothing will ever again root an increasing rural population in the possession and love of the soil but the full ownership of the ground they live by. There is as broad a difference between the spirit and direction of Unionist and Radical ideas on this main matter as can ever separate two policies. But Unionists also know that however the problem is attacked the process of solution will be long, sound progress will be slow, and even the more modest forms of definite and encouraging success will still only be won by hard life and the toil of man's body.

What Unionists deplore in Mr. Lloyd George is not his zeal for the advancement of the people, by his incorrigible tendency to the hasty and superficial action which makes hopeless middle of the best intentions. They loathe his manner of debasing the political coinage as it were, by the unprecedented extent of electioneering alloy which he introduces. This week the "Labor Leader" declares that his people's Budget has improved nothing; that his land taxes "have cost the nation nearly £2,000,000 a year to collect and yield £290,000 a year"; that he only launched his land policy when votes were to be won at any price; and that in his efforts to tax capital he only

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THE Christmas Number OF THE Charlottetown Guardian

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The Land of the Wonderful Silver Black Fox

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Christmas Tree at Wide Plains
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M. E. I.

Special Excursions from Stations on the Murray Harbor Branch Prince Edward Island Railway

Facilities and Train Arrangements in connection with Special Excursions from Stations on the Murray Harbor Branch to Charlottetown, December 18th and 22nd 1913.

STATION	FARE	SPECIAL TRAIN DEPARTS
Murray Harbor	90c.	7.30 A. M.
Murray River	80c.	7.45 A. M.
Hopetield	80c.	7.56 A. M.
Wood Islands	80c.	8.07 A. M.
Belle River	70c.	8.15 A. M.
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Surrey	60c.	8.33 A. M.
Fodhla	60c.	8.40 A. M.
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Vernon River	45c.	9.06 A. M.
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Mill View	45c.	8.44 A. M.
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Mt. Albion	25c.	9.32 A. M.
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Mt. Herbert		9.42 A. M.
Rimbury		9.46 A. M.
Charlottetown		10.05 A. M.

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