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APRIL FOOLS

Saturday was "All Fools' Day." At Ottawa somebody fooled somebody else by asking him whether he had heard that the Governor-General had sent for Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The joke was appreciated and passed on, and on Sunday the question had become general. On Monday morning the report got into the Ottawa newspapers that the Duke of Connaught had sent for Sir Wilfrid, and the sensational tit-bit was sent broadcast by "the Liberal news factory." No effort seems to have been made to verify the "news" until after the report had been made do duty as Liberal ammunition. Then inquiries were instituted and the bubble was burst. Sir Wilfrid did not visit Government House on Saturday or Sunday, nor had he been summoned to do so. The whole story of an intending reconstruction of the Government on a Coalition basis proved to be nothing else than pure imagination, the outcome of an April fool joke. But the Liberal press is so unnerved at the present juncture that it is ready to believe anything, however incredible. If the authors of the circumstantial story had hesitated for a moment to think out the probabilities they would have realized its ridiculousness. It would have been unconstitutional for the Governor-General to "summon" the Leader of the Opposition except for the purpose of inviting him to form a Government, and His Royal Highness could not have done so unless Premier Borden had resigned. But the act of resignation would have implied that the Premier and his Government had lost the confidence of the House; and would have meant a change of Party Government, not a Coalition, so far as Sir Robert Borden was concerned. No Premier with an actual majority would assume the responsibility of handing in the resignation of his Government without first consulting his party, and it was admitted that no caucus of the Government supporters had been held. Had the idea merely been to form a Coalition, then Premier Borden would not have resigned, and Sir Wilfrid would not have been summoned. The procedure would have been similar to that followed in "the Mother of Parliaments." Sir Robert would first have consulted his Government on the advisability of forming a Coalition, and had they approved of that course, he would then have communicated with the Leader of the Opposition and submitted to him the general terms on which the Government was prepared to admit the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition would have consulted his colleagues on the front bench, and if they also approved of the proposals, the terms would have been discussed and adjusted, and a favourable reply sent to the Government. A caucus of each party would then have been summoned, and the terms submitted to the rank and file for their approval. If both parties gave their assent the resignations of all the members of the existing Cabinet, except its leader, of course, would have been submitted to the Premier and he would have reconstructed his Government, giving the Opposition a proportionate share of representation. All this would have been done without Sir Wilfrid necessarily visiting the Governor-General at all. Constitutionally all that would have taken place would have been the resignation of individual members of the Government; the re-appointment of some of them, and the appointment of others to fill the remaining vacancies.

But the sensation mongers did not want to think this out. An April Fool's joke provided them with material for electioneering purposes, which they seized with avidity.

A SPIRITED DEBATE

There was a large attendance in the Legislature yesterday afternoon when Mr W. M. Lea resumed his speech, which had been interrupted by the adjournment on Saturday. Mr Lea was followed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Hon. Murdoch McKinnon, who made a spirited reply to the member for Bedeque, and in the course of an able, closely reasoned speech showed that Mr Lea was sadly lacking in an exact knowledge of the facts of the matters he had undertaken to criticize.

Mr Lea at the outset explained that he had not, as had been reported, taken exception on Saturday to the Government advocating any other kind of farming except dairy-farming, but had emphasized the importance of dairy-farming as the main line of agriculture suited to the province. He then criticized the practice of doing public work by day's labour, and contended that all public works should be done by contract in response to public tender. He did not take exception to the appointment of ten school inspectors if they were necessary, but he did object to the Government taking credit for increased attendance at school, which he attributed to the fact that there had been less immigration during the past few years. He did not approve of teaching the theory of agriculture in schools as the children did not remain long enough to benefit by it, and the teachers were not sufficiently qualified to teach it. He believed agricultural instruction should be obtained at a fully equipped institution like Truro, just as instruction in the professions was obtained at the various universities and colleges.

commended the short courses, but condemned the long course. Mr Lea entered a strong protest against any part of the province being allowed to run automobiles if any other part objected, and then proceeded to criticize the administration of the Prohibition Act, alleging that conditions were worse in Prince County than they were a few years ago. He was questioned by the Premier regarding the sale of liquor in his district and asked why, if conditions were such as he represented them, the matter had not been reported to the authorities. He replied that it was the duty of the prosecutor to find out these things, and that temperance people did not care to make reports, as the information leaked out. Mr Lea said he was in favour of temperance being taken out of politics, but defended the action of certain members of the Alliance in carrying on the campaign against the Government, asserting that the Government had accused them of introducing politics in order to alienate sympathy from them. Mr Lea's speech on this subject consisted of generalities, and when questioned he declined to particularize.

Hon. Murdoch McKinnon's speech was bristling with facts and figures. He showed that the claim of Mr Lea that the late Government had done the best it could for agriculture with the means at its disposal was not founded on fact. Year after year the Agricultural Department failed to utilize the vote at its disposal. He admitted the Liberals introduced Farmers' Institutes, but showed that they utilized these for political purposes, organizing in Prince County, where there were 10 Liberal members, and one in King's, because that County returned only one supporter of the Government. He took exception to Mr Lea's assertion that there were too many agricultural officials and proved that the local Agricultural Department had only five such officers all usefully employed, and when Mr Lea asked about the Dominion officials turned the tables upon him by asking whether he objected to the Dominion Government giving the farmers the benefit of experts when their salaries and expenses were paid from Ottawa. He also denied that the position of the farmers to-day was so bad as Mr Lea had tried to make out, and said if it were so, then what was the sense of Mr Lea advocating that farmers should be induced to come here as immigrants. Mr McKinnon also dealt with the education question and had no difficulty in showing that its demoralized state four years ago was due to the Liberal party's policy. He exposed some of the misrepresentations of the Opposition and the Patriot during last election, and was proceeding to discuss the general agricultural position when the debate was adjourned. The House resumes to-day at ten o'clock, when Mr McKinnon will continue his speech, and reply to Mr Lea's strictures on the administration of the Prohibition Act.

WINTER MAIL SERVICE

The winter steamers are again on the move and are making good crossings on both the Charlottetown-Pictou and Georgetown-Pictou routes. Yesterday both steamers docked at their respective ports in good time to connect with all outgoing trains.

It is presumed the trouble is over for this winter, and we understand that after to-day's crossing at the Capes the ice-boats will be out of commission and the mails transferred to the steamers.

The ice-boat men at Cape Traverse who volunteered for the service this year without the usual guarantee of a month's employment are deserving of the highest commendation. They could, had they chosen to do so, have held up the Government and insisted, as in former years, on a month's wage whether their services were required for so long or not, but taking into consideration the fact that it is war time and that sacrifice is in the air, they patriotically and at considerable sacrifice to themselves, agreed to carry on the service for a week or longer if required. When it is remembered that special preparation must be made and special outfits provided out of their none too generous wages, besides paying their board, it will be seen that their sacrifice was a very considerable one and that as a result of their little more than a week's work they will have little left but the memory of having rendered a good service.

When the car ferry takes up her work permanently on this route, no doubt a number of iceboats will be kept in commission to guard against any possibility of a hold up and an opportunity will be afforded to remember the claims of the men who this year rendered such good service on terms compatible with the conditions the war has imposed upon us. In the meantime they are entitled to the thanks of the province for the self-sacrificing spirit they have shown and the splendid service they gave when there was no other way of carrying mails and passengers to and from the outside world.

NOTES

In Pittsburg a prisoner who stole a ton of coal was discharged by a judge and the complainant was ordered to send him some more, and wait for payment. Apparently, coal is not valued as highly in the smoky city as in some other places.

The women have the vote in Manitoba and now Mrs Robert Bullock has been elected vice-president of the Kildonan and St. Andrew's Conservative Association. If she is of strong personality she may aspire to boss the president. The day seems approaching when a woman will be elected to a Canadian Legislature.

The extraordinary hold-up of the captain and crew of 56 of the British steamer Matoppo, by a German stowaway, is as strange a thing in its way as has ever been recorded. The incident, like the famous adventure of the shoemaker of Koenigsk, shows what may be accomplished by even an insignificant individual if he is possessed of a load of gall.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE FULL REPORT

(Continued)

CORDIAL WELCOME EXTENDED MR. PIERCE.

Mr. William A. Pierce, the American Consul, on the invitation of the Premier, delivered an eloquent address, in which he said:

Most of you have been here now nearly three hours. I take it that that fact is clear proof of your interest in the object of this meeting; but it is clear evidence to of the fact that you must be by this time very weary indeed. But if you will indulge me one minute: the virus of this meeting has gotten into me to a slight extent, and I find it necessary to get that virus out of my system.

If I understand the basic unit of the work of this meeting—it is the province. The lawyer has his Bar Association, the banker has their clearing house; and if I understand the wise and statesman—like motive behind the meeting, it is an attempt to erect a scientific clearing house for the work of the province. I have listened, with all the concentration that my mind is capable of, to the speaker, and there is a thread running through every discourse that I have heard, and that is conservation, building upon the foundation you have and adding to it. Now, if I heard aright, there is another thread running through every discourse, and that is lack of human material. Am I not right? Do you not need more than anything else in this Island, men and women? More of the people like the people you have,—new people, people of endeavour, people of intelligence. Just one suggestion has occurred to my mind. The great Prince Edward Islander who went into my country and has so distinguished not only his native land but himself and his adopted country stated that conservation has for its object the development of all industries, but more especially the development of childhood, womanhood, manhood. Did you ever try a thing like this? I want to make this suggestion, before I sit down, that this thing be made permanent—the Conservation Committee of Prince Edward Island, the Conservation Convention of Prince Edward Island, or any equally appropriate name. Don't let a thing that has in it the germ of progress die out just because of lack of initiative somewhere. Here is one practical suggestion: I am a believer in advertising. There are only two things that don't need advertising—and they are, the state itself and monopoly. A state industry does not need advertising; nobody can take it away. But Prince Edward Island has no state industry or monopolistic industry. Every industry you have spoken of today is a competitive industry.

Every branch of agriculture is competitive. What you need is publicity,—advertising; and going back to the first remark I made, you need more of the valuable human material. How are you going to get it? Let me make this suggestion. Let every business man use on every letter-head some adroit, skilful advertisement: "Come to Prince Edward Island" or something like that. Here is one thing I have known to work. Did you ever have on Prince Edward Island a great "Come Home Day"? "Come Home Week"?

THE PREMIER: Yes.

DR. PIERCE: How did it work? Did it bring lots of people? Was there money behind it? You have to put things on in these days with a heap of soap. Now, gentlemen, try something like that.

I have learned a great deal since I came here, and I thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity of greeting this audience. The question of publicity is the only one that I know of in which my office can serve you; and if I can be of any assistance to you for the purpose of clean publicity for this Island I am at your service.

Make this thing permanent. Erect yourselves a scientific clearing house for the expert men of Prince Edward Island, and you will have new wonders in this beautiful province.

MR. NELSON RATTENBURY.

The first settlers to reach the Island, if they decided to remain, would be obliged at once to consider how they could bring over from the mainland the supplies they required and how they could send out what they had to sell. This is the transportation question, which because of our situation has been of first importance from the beginning of settlement here. Time did not tend to better conditions. On the contrary as our exports and imports increased the difficulties of transportation became more and more to bar our progress.

These yearly recurring breaks in our Transportation, this yearly paralysis of our business is a blight to the province. While this continues the establishment of new industries here is out of the question. The increase of agricultural production along certain profitable lines is impossible. The value of our farm property is therefore reduced. The wealth of our fisheries must remain undeveloped.

That was a second turning point in the history of this transportation problem when the Dominion Government undertook to run a Car Ferry at the Capes. With this ferry service in successful operation our transportation difficulties will be finally solved. We will then be in fact what we have been in name only, since Confederation, part of the Dominion. The island railway system merged in the intercolonial system. Passengers, perishable and ordinary freight moving to and from the sister provinces and the neighboring Republic with no more liability to interruption and with the same despatch and freedom as on the mainland. When we being a part, the word mainland will have lost its meaning for us, and the word Island might be dropped from our name.

The necessity of shipping heavy produce in the broken weather spring and fall, will have disappeared. Our farmers can at their convenience market their surplus produce on the winter roads macadamized without expense.

With these new conditions there will be new opportunities, which, if improved, will add much to our prosperity. New industries will come in time, but this is an agricultural province and we cannot immediately greatly increase our wealth unless we build on the foundation we have. We have been successful here with certain field crops, as hay and oats and, to a less extent, wheat. But, our cool, moist climate and easily-tilled soil is particularly adapted to the growth of roots. Under favourable conditions the out-turn of potatoes, turnips and other vegetables in his province is unusually large. Our yield of potatoes here in 1912 was 6,750,000 bushels from 33,000 acres; in 1913, 6,250,000 bushels from 32,000 acres, an average of 200 bushels to the acre. The average over same years in Ontario was 116 bushels to the acre, and in the

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

ARE YOU A CRANK?

By William H. Ridgeway.

It is only commonplace to say the world has always had its noble men of whom it was not worthy. Any school-boy can tell you of Galileo in science, Millet in art, Goldsmith in literature, Jenner in medicine, Hyatt in mechanics, and many more. But this is the question that concerns you. Is the world worthy of you? Are you marching along a little ahead of the old town, or are you toddling after—a good long way after? We used to have some folks in town we called "cranks." They were "cranks" against drugs and medicines. They were "cranks" against public drinking-cups and towels. They were "cranks" on the care of animals and children. They were "cranks" on sanitation, "cranks" on hygiene, "cranks" on booze. The world has now caught up to them, and we say: "Remember how poor old

So-and-so used to stand up and in spite of our jokes, try to show us how much better off we would be if we would just do this and wouldn't do that?" Now we are busy putting up monuments to our "dear old So-and-so's." That is a fine one of Jenner. If you are the chief religious crank, chief temperance crank, in Squedunk, that is something to rejoice over. The neighbors will be around after a while with bouquets and when you are dead will set up your effigy in the square opposite the band-stand.



Our Millinery PATONS

Experts have Returned with the Latest American Styles in Millinery Opening Thursday PATONS

Y. M. C. A. WORK.

All over Canada, wherever Canadian troops are gathered in large numbers Y. M. C. A. representatives are engaged in various lines of welfare work for the soldiers. In the Maritime Provinces eleven men are laboring with twelve different units, serving 8000 men, and several additional appointments are planned. The Secretary for the Maritime Provinces A. S. McAlister, reports that six additional men are being commissioned to go overseas with the contingents about to sail. Reading and writing materials are being supplied the troops embarking from St. John and Halifax. The Y. M. C. A. men accompany the soldiers not only to the camps in England but right into the trenches and work frequently under fire.

"The Haberdashery"

105th

Regimental Supplies

We carry a very large assortment of regulation. Military supplies and our prices are always reasonable. Knitted and Fox's puttees, button sticks, button polish, money belts, whistle cords, whistles, chevrons, cape gloves, swaggers, cap badges, Buglers badges, Signallers flags, etc., etc.

Khaki Semi-Riding Breeches

We have the best \$5.00 pure wool semi-riding breeches in the city, 100 pairs to select from, all sizes.

Henderson & Cudmore

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FLOGLAZE-A

Supber Finish For Floors

Floglaze will exactly suit the requirements of your floors, for you can finish in either solid color, stain to imitate expensive hard woods,

or transparent to show the natural grain and color of the wood. And it can be used with equally good results on old, new, hard or soft wood floors.

Floglaze will give new life and lustre to your, old, dull floors—not slippery—and wears exceptionally well. Easily applied, dries quick and does not crack.

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Job lot of Men's Rubbers 69c. Women's 2-1-2, 3-1-2 7 at 50c. Infant's size 6-1-2 only 29c.

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