

Legislative Amenities In The "Good Old Days"

Legislators of the old days were not so mild in their criticism of opponents as they are today and the reports of their debates, as recorded in volumes deposited undisturbed on the shelves of the Charlotte-town Public Library, make much more lively reading. Here, for example, is a view of our statesmen of the Confederation period, not grouped in formal poses, with features calm and sedate, but slugging it out in the Legislature over the contentious Railway Bill, with a good deal of the Old Adam showing. The Speaker had a hopeless job keeping order. The date is March 5, 1872, and the excerpts are taken from an official publication:

Hon. Mr. Brecken (Attorney General) said he would not say he hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. D. Davies) had circulated gross slanders, or that hon. members opposite did so. No, they shrank from doing so themselves, but they sent their lying pimps through the country to do so for them.

Hon. Mr. Pope (Leader of the Government) complained that a host of hungry office-seekers, among whom he would name the Opposition leader's nephew, Mr. Louis Davies, had the hardihood and effrontery in the absence of him (Mr. P.) publicly to state that he had bought Lot 19 and had placed it in the hands of a friend until he would have an opportunity when it power to buy it and thus make money out of the transaction. Any man who would circulate so base a lie, if he were bound with a felon's chain and compelled to break stones, would but receive the treatment due for such an offence. The Leader of the Opposition himself had voted for the Bill in all its stages, yet after it was passed he said to him (Mr. P.): "You carried it worth your damned Brigade!"

SUCH CONDUCT!

Hon. Mr. Davies on a point of order said he recollected there was some warmth in the words he used in the Speaker's Room, but did not think he was in the habit of using the language at-

tributed to him. Hon. Mr. Brecken said no doubt his colleague was an honorable man, but he could tell him that his person did not contain all the honour and respectability of the Town and Royalty. He had voted for the Bill in caucus and on the floor of the House, and I did not wish it to pass why did he not there and then say so. Such conduct only became an overgrown baby.

Hon. David Laird said the worst conducted debating society in the country never produced scenes more ridiculous than had been witnessed since the Speaker had taken the chair. The Leader of the Government had in his denunciation of the Opposition used language which only became a political blackguard. He felt ashamed of his native country when he heard such words uttered in the House. The hon. member had charged

Mr. Lolus Davies with being worthy of a felon's chains, and had called the Leader of the Opposition an overgrown baby. Hon. Mr. Pope: "I said the conduct of the hon. member for Charlottetown was like that of an overgrown baby." Mr. Laird: "No matter what construction the hon. member may give his words, I say they were improper." Hon. Mr. Pope demanded that the language, the hon. member

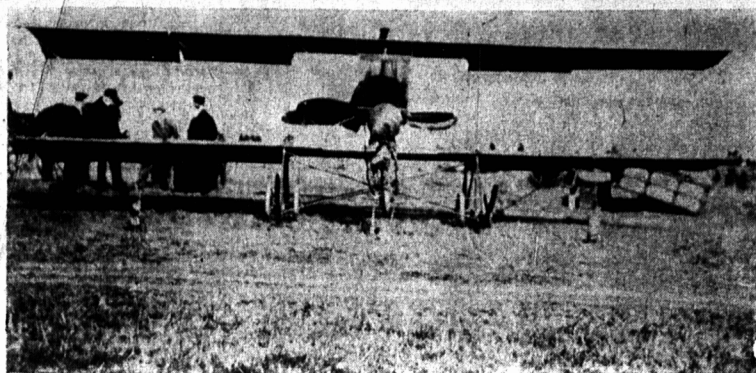
had used toward himself should be taken down. He said that he (Mr. Pope) was a political blackguard." Mr. Laird: "By all means".

MORE WORDS
The words having been taken down, Mr. Laird said he was prepared to repeat them again, and would tell the hon. member that the words used by him fell far short of what (Mr. Pope) had

said himself in that House. Bold denunciation was not an argument, nor warmth in debate a good defense of the Government. He recalled the difficulties which prevented the people of New York from proving the corruption of Boss Tweed and his associates, yet it had in the end been most satisfactorily proven to be one of the highest swindles ever practised upon any people; and time, he had no doubt, would

prove the corruption of the Railway Bill also. . . . He could assure the hon. member that his political skinning had no terrors for him. Hon. Mr. Howlan said he had expected to hear the hon. member who had just spoken, use language more in accordance with his profession as a member of a Christian Association. He (Mr. H.) would not call him a blackguard, nor would he say

there was nothing noble or manly about the hon. member; and he did not expect to hear him call any other member a political blackguard. Mr. Laird: "I deny that I called the hon. member a political blackguard. I said he acted like one." . . . And so it went, hackles rising and fists pounding the tops of the solid desks, and Mr. Speaker vainly invoking order or shouting to the Sergeant-at-Arms to keep the galleries quiet. It was the heyday of partisan politics and the public expected, and got, a lively show for its money. Rarely, however, in those days did members feel obliged to rise on a question of privilege. They took knocks in their stride, giving harder ones in return; and when it was all over, no doubt, adjourning to the Speaker's Room for a friendly glass.



First Plane Flown Over City

The Guardian of Sept. 27, 1912, reported that the Provincial Exhibition of that year "will go down in history as being the first at which aeroplane flights were given, and the revolutionizing possibilities of the science of aviation were demonstrated to thousands of interested Prince Edward Islanders, who can now look forward to the day when that nine mile strip of water which divides us from the mainland need no longer be considered a barrier in the way of continuous communication, winter or summer." The plane flown at the Exhibition on that occasion, shown above, was piloted by a young man named Peoli, who reached an altitude of 2,500 feet in his first flight, and 5,000 in his second. He took the first aerial views of Charlottetown, flying up the river as far as Falconwood, as well as over the city and suburbs. The plane, as described in the Guardian report, was 30 ft. long, 5 ft. deep, with a \$2,500 motor which could develop 80 horse power. Owned by Captain Bald, who accompanied the pilot here, it had been making exhibition flights for two years, and a five months' tour of the Orient was being planned. "Captain Baldwin intends to make improvements," says the report, "by doing away with all the wire stays and using the tetrahedral steel stay, which has been adopted by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, and from which Baldwin got the idea. The change will ensure greater rigidity and strength, without materially adding to the weight."



"John A." With Snakes & Toga

(A. Sykes in Ottawa Journal '48)
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.—Here, where delegates of five Provinces met 85 years ago to discuss union, is surely the most incredible bronze plaque ever molded in Canada. When prowling about this beautiful little city of parks, trees, race tracks and churches, I entered the Confederation Chamber where this unique tablet adorns the wall, and stopped spellbound. To believe it you really have to see it. The plaque is a political cartoon-caricature in bronze bas-relief. The tablet is a five-man show, the players being Sir John A. Macdonald for Ontario; Sir George Cartier for Quebec; Sir Leonard Tilley for New Brunswick; Col John Hamilton Gray for Prince Edward Island and Sir Charles Tupper for Nova Scotia.

as Gabriel's trumpet and arrayed in a combination of ancient and medieval trappings blows from the right of the plaque. Only person remotely approaching a Canadian in appearance is Sir Charles Tupper. No toga or plumed hat for him. With a pickaxe at his left, Sir Charles is attired only in shorts, held up by a single diagonal brace. On his feet are 15th century shoes laced by crossed thongs of the buskin type reaching up to the knee. Near his right toe is a large-headed fish. The guide-book says the great Nova Scotian is pointing to the legend "Unity is Strength". But this reporter knows better. He's hailing the waterboy!

Four of the Confederation fathers are garbed in a neo-classical get-up midway between the Roman toga and the sleeveless abbreviated Greek smock. Bare-headed, bare-armed and bare-necked, Sir John A. Looks almost naked minus his typical high collar and Ascot tie, and just a little bit sheepish about the locomotive, sheaf of wheat, and scythe over, which he seems to be in some danger of stumbling. To his scantily-covered breast, Canada's first Prime Minister clutches a large winged staff about which are entwined two serpents—badge of Hermes, Mercury and Moses—not to mention the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. This, for some reason represents Canada's ideal of unity—but Charlottetown authorities don't say where the snakes come from. Sir John faces irresolutely in the direction of Sir George Cartier who is in even fancier fancy dress. By his side, Sir George wears the sword of justice and holds an ancient torch in his left hand. Unlike Sir John, his head is covered—and covered with a plumed helmet like that of a Roman centurion. Looking tired and bored, Sir Leonard Tilley stands in the centre of the group holding a scroll bearing the word "Dominion". Sir Leonard's head is surmounted with either a wreath of laurel or a small crown—the gentlemen on duty at the Legislative Buildings at the time couldn't swear which but was inclined to favor the laurel. Col. Gray of Prince Edward Island comes forth and also bears a symbol of Canadian unity. In his case it is the fasces of Mussolini's Italy or of the victors of Augustus Caesar. It looks rather odd to see a Canadian statesman holding the bound faggots and axe-blade of Benito's legions, but 25 years ago this apparently was all right. He too has a headgear which is like the helmets of the Italian carabinieri. A herald with a horn ad long

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DURING
CHARLOTTETOWN'S
CENTENNIAL
YEAR

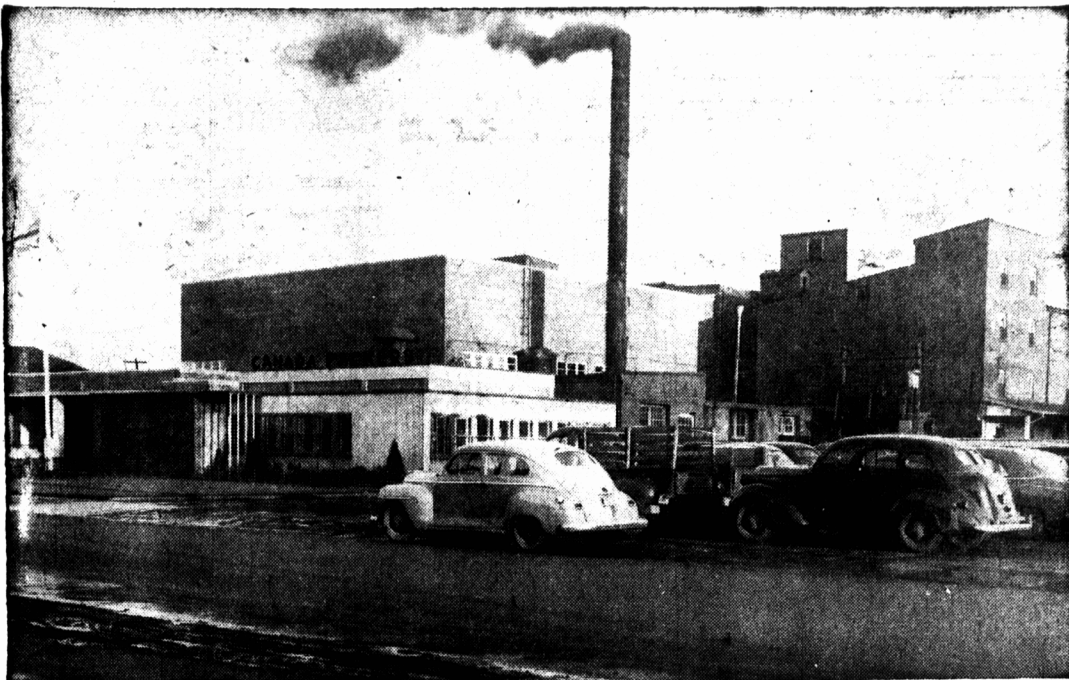
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On Looking Forward we can take heart from the past, an era of progress and development. A City reflects its people and we are mighty proud of our fellow citizens.

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CHARLOTTETOWN'S LARGEST INDUSTRY Congratulates The City of Charlottetown On Its ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

From a modest beginning Canada Packers' Charlottetown plant today is one of the finest packing plants in Eastern Canada.

Originally the Company had only a handful of workers but progressed steadily and now has a staff of nearly 200 employees. We at Canada Packers are confident, in the years to come, of continued progress, and that many notable achievements will mark Charlottetown's second century.

Canada Packers' large investment in its Charlottetown plant is practical evidence of the faith which the Company has in the Agricultural future of Prince Edward Island. It is the Company's belief that Charlottetown will continue to be an expanding export outlet for the high grade farm products of this Garden Province.

Just recently, as an added incentive to young farmers and to emphasize the importance of good livestock, this plant has distributed among Junior Farmers in the Province 40 head of cattle. These will be later judged at the Provincial Exhibition during "Old Home Week" and prizes awarded the winners. These animals will be auctioned and boys who have cared for them will receive the difference between the original cost and the price realized at the auction.

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and its Citizens now on the
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