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RICHIBUCTO, N. B. APRIL 12, 1900

The speech of Mr. Urbain Johnson, M. P. P., in the House of Assembly last week, secured the attention of the members by its well considered statement of common sense facts. The imposition of local charges on farm produce taken into Northumberland County from Kent has been a source of petty annoyance to our farmers. It is of benefit to none and prevents the conveyance from our farming districts of the produce which Northumberland County people require and which their own farmers do not raise in sufficient quantities for the local consumption. We commend Mr. Johnson for calling public attention to the annoyance and trust the public spirit in the adjoining county will assert itself in the removal of these tolls.

THE I. C. R. TROUBLE.

We hope by the time we go to press to hear that the trouble between the telegraph operators and management of the Intercolonial Railway has been amicably adjusted. So many grievances under which the employees of the people's railway were suffering prior to 1896 have been adjusted by the Hon. A. G. Blair that it would seem as though some ground could be accepted by the conflicting interests in this case. We understand that the schedule of pay for extra time prepared by the telegraph operators was accepted by the railway and for the first time in its history the fair and equitable principle of paying the operators for overtime has been adopted on the I. C. R. The operators are now reported to be pressing for two weeks holidays each year without deduction of wages, but that demand seems to us to be in exact contradiction to the former demand of pay for overtime. It is a world wide maxim that the only employees entitled to holidays at their employer's expense are those who receive no pay for extra services. If the telegraph operators receive holidays at the expense of the I. C. R., we see no good reason why the drivers, firemen, conductors, &c., should not have the same privilege. Yet these classes of employees admit they have no right to holidays at the road's expense, simply because they are paid extra for every hour they are employed over their agreed time, and therefore if they wish holidays they would not expect the road to pay them while idle.

We therefore are driven to think either that the I. C. R. telegraph operators have other and more equitable claims for which they are pressing or that they are pressing these unjust claims inequitably.

BY THE WAY.

The capture of a squadron or two of British cavalry can't affect

the final result but is irritating to the public. We thought "Bobs" wouldn't allow our nerves to be disturbed by the recurrence of the old time blunders.

According to President Steyn the so-called Republics are relying on a higher power than Britain, namely France, Germany and Russia. The Boers have apparently given up their appeal to Providence.

No man has been so much maligned in New Brunswick in the past few weeks as Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P. P., chairman of the Bridge Investigating Committee. Mr. Carvell's reputation for honesty and integrity is however too well established to be disturbed by the nasty partisan attacks of the "reptile" press.

"A sane Imperialism" is the name given to the Liberal article in distinguishing it from the hybrid hysteria of which the Conservative leaders enjoy a monopoly. To be patriotic in war but not in peace is to demonstrate that a nation's blood is less precious than its purse. No doubt the tory flag wavers think they would rather see the other fellow give his life than be called upon themselves to give a trade preference which might remotely affect their own pockets.

The St. John Sun bewails the fact that the British manufacturer rejoices over the British preference in Canada. A few months ago the Sun was sure the preference was a sham and is no doubt filled with grief at the innocent delusion which makes the British manufacturer imagine a preference of one-third less duty to be an advantage in competing against foreign goods in the Canadian market.

With free raw material and a third off the duty on British manufactures, the tory protectionists are taking alarm. Patriotism is only a secondary consideration compared with Protection in their eyes.

We haven't heard the Liberals accused of disloyalty for ten days. Can it be that the "loyalty cry" has been knocked on the head by the Budget Speech. If so Canada owes Hon. Mr. Fielding much for giving the quietus to this old time bugaboo with which the Conservative leaders were wont to scare the electorate into submission.

What's the matter with the Bridge charges? They are out of sight! Buried in the same grave with Mr. J. D. Hazen's reputation for political sagacity.

It was noticed that the ex-leader of the Local Opposition wasn't worried over Mr. Hazen's dismal failure to prove his Bridge charges. Of course no one would accuse Dr. Stockton of malice aforethought in having his successor tumble into a political hole. Oh no! Still the worthy Doctor didn't seem to be losing any sleep over his successor's awful fate. "Such is life" as the immortal Mrs. Gamp used to say.

"Oh what an awful falling off was there, my countrymen!" murmured Clarke Wallace when he read the report of Sir Charles Tupper's anti-imperial speech at Quebec City. But then Dr. Tupper as a skilful physician always suits the dose to the patient who is to receive it and didn't intend his Quebec speech for Ontario readers. These modern newspapers are a perfect nuisance to an old fashioned politician like Sir Charles who wasn't brought up to be consistent.

Mr. Chamberlain's proposal of

free trade within the Empire is worse heresy to the protectionist theories than the Government tariff for revenue only. Poor old Sir Charles seems to be between the horns of the dilemma and is apt to get impaled before he gets out of the difficulty. That's the reason the Montreal Star et als have had their Imperialism frozen up in the last blizzard. Very unkind of Mr. Chamberlain to shatter all the tory campaign speeches on Imperial Federation. We recommend to Sir Charles the soliloquy of the immortal Dave beginning "The world is out of joint! Oh cursed spite, that ever I was born to set it right!"

That's the trouble with those British Radicals, they don't pretend to venerate the buried past. Why that Joe Chamberlain proposes to sweep away protection within the Empire as though he had never heard of Sir Charles Tupper and the National Policy Paicea! What a great Julius Caesar Sir Charles would make saying "And you too, Brutus," as he receives the death blow at the hands of his Imperial friends.

THE BRIDGE VERDICT.

We publish in another column the report of the Committee appointed by the House of Assembly to investigate the charges preferred by Mr. J. D. Hazen, leader of the Opposition, against the Hon. H. R. Emmerson of extravagance and political favoritism in the construction of the permanent steel bridges in this Province. Our readers will remember that the original charges of last session contained a personal charge against the Hon. Mr. Emmerson of malfeasance in his office as Commissioner of Public Works, but this was withdrawn and a public apology made therefor by Mr. Hazen. When this apology had been made and the bridge charges withdrawn a year ago, the interest in the whole matter so far as the general public was concerned was largely ended, for the question of honesty having been admitted the matter of Bridge construction then remained only a question of policy in which it was perhaps not to be expected that the friends and opponents of the present Local Administration would see eye to eye. However, the leader of the Opposition has seen fit to again prefer the Bridge charges in their modified form and the Committee after a most careful investigation has returned a verdict which must be considered satisfactory to the Administration and to the bulk of the New Brunswick electorate. Not only does the Committee report that the charges were unproven, but according to its report the very witnesses called to prove the charges were successful in proving them entirely unfounded. So that when Mr. Hazen had closed his case against the Government the Committee were of opinion that these witnesses called by Mr. Hazen had proved the Government's Bridge Policy a wise and economical one. A careful perusal of the Committee's report will satisfy any unbiased reader of the utter worthlessness of the charges made by Mr. Hazen.

There are several striking features of the investigation, however, to which we might refer. When Mr. Hazen made these charges to the public previous to the general elections of 1899, he based them on the expert evidence of P. S. Archibald, ex-Chief Engineer of the I. C. R., Mr. T. B. McCarthy, a Civil Engineer, of Montreal, and an "unknown" who turned out to be a young engineering student named C. E. Holmes. It is a notable fact that in the investigation just closed not one of these three men were called by Mr.

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Hazen to give evidence. Why this silence on the part of the three men who, according to Mr. Hazen's pre-election campaign dodgers knew all about the matter and who were his authorities for the statements with which he attempted to deceive the electorate? It is a still more notable fact that Mr. McCarthy was summoned to Fredericton last winter and as soon as Mr. Hazen had interviewed him he announced his willingness and desire to sign the abject apology to Hon. Mr. Emmerson for the damaging statements he had made. Why was it necessary to summon entirely new experts who had not measured and weighed the bridges in question? Mr. P. S. Archibald is still out of his job as I. C. R. Engineer and would naturally delight in the opportunity to damage either the Local or Dominion Governments in order to get square. The "unknown" Mr. Holmes has been discovered and one would think as little as Mr. Hazen could do for him would be to give him a chance to draw a little public money as an expert witness after using his name so freely in the last election campaign. Why did Mr. Phelps Johnson, the Manager of the Dominion Bridge Co. of Montreal, refuse to produce contracts or give prices charged by his company for building bridges in Quebec and Ontario?

These questions are simple enough to answer. The leader of the Opposition discovered he had been hoaxed into making himself a catspaw for men who put him forward to make the charges. He realized it was a useless job to try, after the fiasco of last winter, to convince the people of the seriousness of his purpose. The Bridge charges would never have been heard of again but for the fact that the Dominion elections were thought to be coming on within a few months. Mr. Hazen who is much more interested in the federal campaign than he is in local politics thought some evidence of an election campaign fund might be discovered which he could use to instill into the electorate a horror of the "boodling Grits." Needless to say no such evidence was discovered because no such

dishonesty was present in these permanent bridge contracts. The only samples of West Huron election frauds to be discovered in New Brunswick are already known to Mr. Hazen and his tory friends from their participation in the same. We can only remind Mr. Hazen that the grits have not proven apt scholars or they might have learned a wrinkle or two from the pious George E. Foster in the great ballot box stealing campaign of 1891 or from the tory machine in Queens County when the late lamented George F. Baird was elected in that constituency by the dexterous substitution of tory ballots by the slight of hand operator employed in 1891. The tory party enjoy a monopoly of election frauds in this Province and the Liberals have no desire to disturb their sole rights to the monopoly.

The Bridge charges have proven a political mare's nest and their investigation has not added to Mr. Hazen's reputation for political sagacity.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

W. C. T. U. COLUMN.

"And let us not be weary in well-doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."—Galatians 6: 9.

At a public dinner given to Gen. Harrison, when first nominated for the office of President of the United States, one of the guests, rather conspicuously, "drank to his health." The general pledged his toast by drinking water. Another gentleman offered a toast and said: "General will you favor me by drinking a glass of wine?" The general, in a very gentlemanly way, begged to be excused. He was again urged to join in a glass of wine. This was too much. He rose from his seat and said, in a most dignified manner: "Gentlemen, I have twice refused to partake of the wine cup. I hope that will be sufficient. Though you press the matter ever so much not a drop shall pass my lips. I made a resolve when I started in life that I would avoid strong drink. That vow I have never broken. I am one of a class of seventeen young gentlemen who graduated at college together. The other sixteen members of my class fill drunkards' graves—and all from the pernicious habit of wine drinking. I owe all my health, my happiness and prosperity to that resolution. Would you urge me to drink it now?" The effect on that company may be imagined.

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CONVENT BURNED.

MONTREAL, April 5.—St. Ann's convent at St. Jacques, Montreal county, was burned to the ground last night. No lives were lost, but many of the inmates are suffering from burns and injuries, real cause of the fire is unknown. At one time it looked as if the church could not be saved, but the fire was confined to the convent.

The loss is estimated at about one hundred thousand dollars; insurance, \$15,000.

Don't Chide the Children.

Don't scold the little ones if the bed is wet in the morning. It isn't the child's fault. It is suffering from a weakness of the kidneys and bladder, and weak kidneys need strengthening—that's all. You can't afford to risk delay. Neglect may entail a lifetime of suffering and misery.

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

strengthen the kidneys and bladder, then all trouble is at an end.
Mrs. E. Kidner, a London, Ont., mother, living at 499 Grey St., says:
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N. R. COLTER,
Post Office Inspector.
Post Office Inspector's Office, St. John, N. B., April 6th, 1900.

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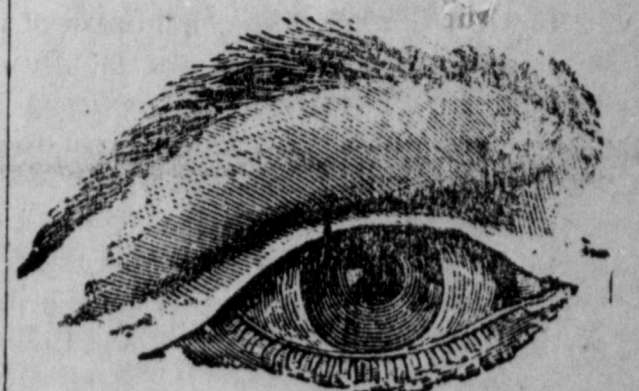
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