

The Daily Mail

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THE "LABOR" CANDIDATES

The announcement is made that ten of the candidates seeking election to the City Council have received the endorsement of the Trades and Labor Council, while the other eight, most of whom are compelled by force of circumstances to labor for their daily bread, have been given the cold shoulder. There is evidently a marked difference of opinion in this city as to just who are the friends of the laboring man. There are some well-meaning people who entertain the opinion that those who invest their money in industries which provide profitable employment for artisans, and otherwise devote their time and talents to the advancement of the community, are about as friendly disposed towards the laboring man as those who invest their surplus cash in western real estate or loan it to the working man in exchange for a mortgage on his property. We were always under the impression that Ald. Edward Moore had accomplished something for labor in the city of Fredericton. We know that he was one of the first men to put up the money to establish a shoe factory in this city and we know that for years he received no dividend on his investment and we know further that had he not pledged his credit for the benefit of the institution at a critical time in its history that Fredericton today would be minus this important and flourishing industry. Yet strange to say, Ald. Moore is passed over by the Trades and Labor Council while men who probably never gave an hour's employment to a working man in their lives have been given its endorsement.

Then take the case of Mr. W. G. Clark. He is beyond a doubt one of Fredericton's brainiest and most successful business men. He has by his industry and keen business acumen built up a large mercantile establishment in this city with branches in other parts of the province. He is a trustee and benefactor of Victoria Hospital, a prominent worker in the Baptist church and a staunch advocate of moral reform. He is interested in several Fredericton industries and at the recent banquet held under the auspices of the Board of Trade a letter was read from him in which he stated very explicitly that he stood ready to subscribe to the capital stock of any new industry that might be established in this city. It is men of his calibre who furnish employment for the people, it is men of his push and enterprise who convert towns into cities. And yet those who profess to speak for the labor interests have in their wisdom decreed that a man who never did anything for Fredericton except fill a soft government position and who would not be with us today but for that position, has made greater sacrifices for the cause of labor and is better qualified to promote the interests of labor than is Mr. W. G. Clark.

The men identified with organized labor here are as a rule good fellows and fond of a joke but they should not at this stage attempt to perpetrate such a gigantic one on their fellow-citizens.

It seems rather strange that under the provisions of the city election law as amended last year, candidates for the City Council are not permitted to name scrutineers to represent them at the polls. So far as can be learned, there is no precedent for such a condition of affairs and it is most surprising that it should have passed the Legislature in such a form. It places an arbitrary power in the hands of the City Council which is not in keeping with the spirit of this democratic age. Candidates for the federal and local parliaments have the right to appoint agents to represent them at the polls and why should the same right be denied to a candidate for civic honors.

When the agricultural estimates were before the Legislature on Tuesday Mr. Young took advantage of the opportunity to say a kind word for the Fredericton Agricultural Society. He referred to the number of successful exhibitions held under its auspices and added with emphasis that the society did not ask the government to pay insurance on its buildings. The Fredericton Agricultural Society has certainly made a great record for itself and the credit for this belongs to a number of the leading business men of the city who have given ungrudgingly of their time and talents to make it what it is today.

The Transportation Committee of the Board of Trade is making progress in its fight for a reduction in the freight rates on coal brought from the Grand Lake mines to this city by way of the Transcontinental and Intercolonial Railways. There has been a reduction of twenty-five cents per ton and a further reduction has been promised. The agitation should be kept up until the price is cut down to about what the service is worth.

Attorney General Grimmer made the statement in the Legislature on Tuesday that members holding portfolios in provincial governments in other provinces of Canada were termed ministers. This is not so in the case of Nova Scotia where the members of the government holding portfolios are officially known as the Attorney General, the Provincial Secretary and the Commissioner of Works and Mines.

In 1907 the last year of the old government the interest charges of the province amounted to \$178,569.70. Last year under the economical Fleming government the total as set forth in the Auditor General's report was \$258,352.97 an increase of \$77,783.27. At four per cent this represents the interest on nearly two million dollars. This is the exhibit of a government which promised economy.

As a result of a kick put up by the members for Westmorland the Canada Oyster Company, which has applied for a lease of thirty acres of barren bottom at Bay Verte for oyster culture, may have to be content with one-half of the territory asked for. The other fifteen square miles will probably go to friends of the government who have lately had their eyes opened to the fact that there is money in the oyster business.

Democracy is certainly getting a strong foothold in New Brunswick. Evidence of this is found in the fact that the private secretary of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor is seeking election to the Fredericton City Council as a labor candidate.

Had Ald. Guthrie remained in civic politics long enough to have given the people an opportunity to pronounce upon his record for the past year in all probability the vacant position on the school board would have gone to another.

Woodstock Press:—"Without any effort on its part to secure the building of the road, St. John now, for purely selfish motives, attempts to dictate a change in the route of the road and deserves a flat turn-down by the government."

St. Andrew's Beacon:—"A budget speech without some one to criticize it and point out its weaknesses is a pretty tame affair. And Provincial Secretary McLeod found it so when he delivered his address last week."

The Mail is not able to see eye to eye with Ald. Guthrie on many things, but it feels like commending him for the good judgment he has shown in retiring from civic politics.

The "travelling fees" members of the Fleming government have had their pay boosted from \$8 per day to \$12. It is really a shame for them to take the money.

Since Attorney General Grimmer aspires to succeed Premier Fleming some day it is but natural that he should be in favor of increasing the premier's salary.

It is beginning to look as if the Liberals at Ottawa were going to force an election on the naval issue.

A MOVEMENT ON FOOT

"It would be well if honorable gentlemen opposite could show a record of devotion to Canada and the empire like our leader," said Mr. MacDonald of Pictou, rising to his feet. Mr. Bureau then settled back to his subject. He dealt at some length with the imperial defence committee, arguing that Great Britain had intended the overseas dominions to have their own navies together with representation on the committee. He was willing to refer to Hon. Lewis Harcourt, when he had said that the idea of an imperial parliament was not practical.

"I do not want to take up the time of the house," said Mr. Bureau, at 2.45 p. m. There were immediate cries of "Go on" from both sides. "No, I will not," Mr. Bureau said. "I have not touched the subject yet, but I hope to deal with it again at a later date when I shall explain why I am opposed to the Conservative policy."

Charles Wilson, member for Laval, took up the strain from 3 o'clock till 5, alternately in English and French. Levi Thompson, of Qu'Appelle, who began at 5 p. m. to make his second contribution to the debate, was again subjected to a little badgering by the facetious back-benchers on the government side. "If some of the government members would keep their ears open and their mouths shut they would have no difficulty in hearing my remarks," he said, and after that he was left alone. He read to the house an article appearing in today's Conservative papers stating that the Liberals were adopting anarchistic methods of obstruction and were voting now one way and now the other way on the naval issue. He referred somewhat scathingly to this deliberate misrepresentation and "petty haggling and quibbling" as a substitute for real argument.

A FIREMAN'S PERIL

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