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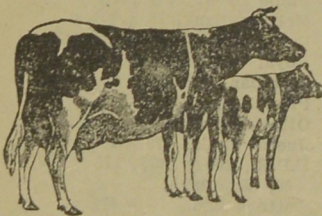
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## WEST END DAIRY

# ERA OF WHITE BREECHES AT THE DOMINION CAPITAL

Mr. Gadsby Declares That They are Now the Correct Thing at all Court Functions --Late Governor Snowball of New Brunswick set the Fashion Some Years Ago

(By H. F. Gadsby in The St. John Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Feb. 14—Freedom, as Tennyson has aptly remarked, broadens down from precedent to precedent. Our official progress in this country has been from black trousers to white breeches. But the great loon of white breeches was not won in a day. A long, sad tale hangs there-by.

It is only within the last seven years that his majesty, acting through the lord chamberlain and the lord chamberlain acting in turn through the military secretary of the governor general, has seen fit to endue Canadian cabinet ministers, privy councillors and lieutenant governors with a costume suitable to their states. Before that their sole

the captain of the bell boys. This was a great hardship, because when Canadian cabinet ministers or privy councillors or lieutenant governors visited England they found themselves undressed for the part and distinctly inferior to the British privy councillors whose costume of white and blue and gold struck a high, sun-clear, militant note. So far as catching the public eye went, a Canadian privy councillor didn't have half the chance of his majesty's barge-master or his majesty's swan keeper, both of whom sported clothes that left the rainbow lustreless as a pot of beef tea.

It was not as if the lord chamberlain lacked invention. A man who can think out thirty-six different kinds of buttons and issue every year a new guide book of design dealing in detail with a thousand costumes, has the finest tailor's mind in the world. Likewise, he has the pattern department of the Ladies' Home Journal beaten forty ways. So that if Canada had no special fancy dress to single her out from Zululand or the Malaysian Islands it was the lord chamberlain's fault and none other's. This neglect on the lord chamberlain's part stirred a feeling of resentment in loyal Canadian hearts and seriously hampered the work of the empire-builders. It was plain that something had to be done. In due course something was done. In fact, a great deal was done, but it was a mortal long time coming and the Boer war had to be fought and the empire had to go through great unifying throes before white breeches befell.

### COSTUMES IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Pity the state of Our Lady of the Snows during those long dreary years before white breeches came to gladden the landscape. Look at the pictures in the halls of parliament, and you get what I mean. Here are the good, old, red-faced Family Compact speakers of the senate, and such. The most costumes can do for them is white Geneva bands, a black gown, a dark curtain, an open book and a thoughtful air. Sir Allan MacNabb, one of the sturdiest empire-builders of his day, is actually portrayed in a plaid vest, probably the clan tartan. Believe me, if Sir Allan had had white breeches or anything like them they would have figured in that picture, for Sir Allan was a great stickler for form and ceremony. What's more he was a Tory of the ripe old Madeira school and yet for all this picture tells me by way of uniform he was a democrat from the waist upward, whatever the rest of him may have been.

Follow me down the echoing corridors of time. Years elapse, as the theatre program says. Here is a picture of Sir David Macpherson, a privy councillor in his day. It is the picture of a giant, full length and a little more. I do not admit that Sir David was seven feet six inches tall, but that is not the question. The point is that Sir David wears black breeches, black hose, black shoes, and a black open faced coat. Mark the breeches. They are the first of their kind. They are as startling as Sir David's early Gothic whiskers. Short, black breeches, Sir David was a bold man.

Canada is marching. But courage stopped with Sir David. Did I say stopped? Flagged, halted, marked time—these are better words. Now here is a picture of Sir John Macdonald, a glorious picture; all scarlet and gold, but it has no bearing on the case because Sir John is wearing the imperial privy councillor's uniform and the picture, being a half length, does not take in the white breeches.

I find more encouragement in a three-quarter length of Sir John Thompson, who is shown in civil uniform—wrongly called the Windsor uniform—with a blue embroidered coat and grey breeches. Clap your

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choice was to dress like gentlemen or else wear the civil uniform of the third class, a neat but not gaudy confection, tight fitting with buttons, which made a statesman look like eyes on the grey breeches. Sir David's were black. Sir John's are grey. We are coming along. White breeches are not far away?

Not far away? Oh yet they are. The darkest hour may be just before the dawn, but it is as long as all the other star-lit hours put together. The painful truth is that costumes for Canadian cabinet ministers, privy councillors and lieutenant governors was never more confusing and ill-defined. It was against this chaos Major Maude broke his great heart. Major Maude took Sartor Resartus seriously. He firmly believed that a sixteenth-of-an-inch thickness of clothes made all the difference, but he lost his cause by being peevish. The newspapers never understood him though Joe Pope did.

### SIR JOSEPH POPE TO THE RESCUE

Sir Joseph! Ah there's a man for you! The stoutest defender of white breeches Canada ever had. The one bright light which shines through the gloom of that corpulent age in which white breeches seemed to have faded forever from the view. In those sad days Joe Pope would sing: "Come into the Garden Maude!" and the major would buck up again. Always cheerful, always gay, Joe Pope never despaired for white breeches even when their case looked blackest. Joe Pope bled his time so he did and so everything came to Sir Joseph because he knew how to wait. When you gloat over those star-scattered days of knightshoods, order and white breeches government, do not forget Sir Joseph Pope in your alleloias.

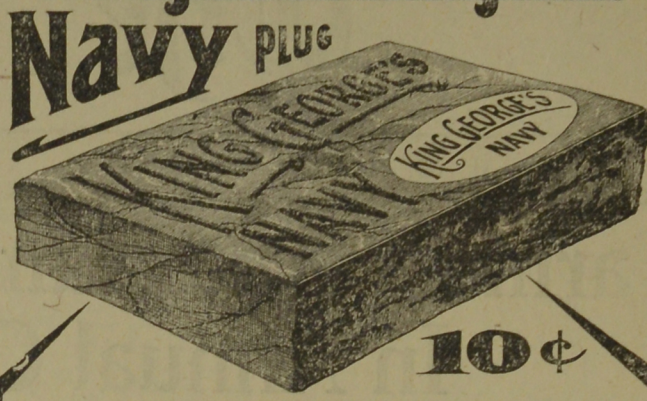
This misty period of doubt and wavering was the selected moment for rash intruders who would have brought in white breeches before the country was ready for them. At a state drawing room appeared a certain Major Wickstead in white breeches. He said he had a right to them claimed all the privileges, and nobody could say him nay, for nobody was sure enough of his book to set up as an authority. The discount was at its highest, when the major caught cold and died, the change from red flannel to white breeches in winter being too much for his advanced age and infirmities.

The next attempt to rush the season for white breeches was by a western cabinet minister who appeared in these shining garments as soon as he got his P.C. He has seen them in England and admired them. As a full kit costs \$750 he rightly considered it as a dignified outlet to his inrowing wealth. In this attitude he was encouraged by the Ottawa tailors who advised him to have two suits a year, one for spring and the other for fall wear. The Ottawa tailors are close followers of the lord chamberlain's pattern book and once a year they ring up every cabinet minister; privy councillor and lieutenant governor of Canada and appraise them of every change in the fashion. A pound of gold lace more or less is nothing to an Ottawa tailor but it keeps some of the cabinet ministers scratching to keep up with the latest models. The western cabinet minister was not troubled that way—he has lots of it. So when he burst on the astonished gaze of his excellency in white breeches, which his excellency could lawfully have ordered him to take off on the spot nothing was said. Not to put too fine a point on it he got away with his act of trespass and white breeches were that much nearer.

### THE FEVER STRIKES WESTERN STATESMEN

Just here is the place to state that it is a great mistake to imagine that the east alone is addicted

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alone to white breeches. The west has its mind set them too. Every day Black Rod receives letters from the prairie provinces asking whether there is a uniform for the private secretary of the lieutenant or similar important questions. The subdivision aristocracy, having made money and knowing little how to spend it in a discriminating way, goes in for the game of fine feathers with great zest. They make their rulers and governors toe the mark. Although it is a back-to-the-land movement, with town lots on the side, which has made them rich they do not pretend to like a cabinet minister in overalls stained with the soil from which he sprang. What they want is style and if there is any discussion in the best western circles about white breeches it will be along the lines of adding to their beauty with pearl buttons, frills, tucks, accordion pleats, dounces, embroidery, pink ruffles, V-shaped necks and such.

The brooding east, on the other hand, will probably swing around to breeches made of the Union Jack the flag that has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze bearing more likely to give good wear than white Kerseymer, which, not silk or satin, is the constitutional material for the white breeches which adorn the pillars of the state and incidentally reveal the state of the pillars.

### EX-GOV. SNOWBALL SETS THE FASHION.

The man who brought white breeches to a head, so to speak, was the late Lieutenant Governor Jabez Rehoboam Snowball of New Brunswick. In 1903 he appeared at a state drawing room in Ottawa in white breeches. Snowball was his name and Snowball was his nature. How could he look like a snowball in anything but white breeches? With him to think was to act and breeches as white as the New Brunswick driven snow was the result. It was allowed that Governor Snowball's reasoning was sound and steps were taken to sew his white breeches into the British North America Act. It was not too soon, for the white breeches controversy in Canada was growing

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### Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next session of the Legislative Assembly (A. D. 1913) for the passage of an Act to amend the Act 2 George V, Chapter 109, incorporating the St. John River Hydro-Electric Company (a) increasing the bonding privileges from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000 (b) enlarging the time by one year for the commencement and completion of the Company's works and for other purposes.

Dated this tenth day of February, A.D. 1913.  
St. John River Hydro-Electric Company  
R. M. McCarty, Sec.-Treas.

like Jonah's gourd and the king on his golden throne in far-off London Town was getting quite stirred up about it.

Happily it all came out right. The man of the hour was Hanbury-Williams, who came to this country colonel and went away Sir John. Dear Sir John was very keen on these matters. He had to be, because that was three-quarters of his office as military secretary. He was a still hunter, made no outcry and did more for white breeches by a few weeks' brisk correspondence with the lord chamberlain than Major Maude did in years of screaming. A man of eagle vision, Sir John saw at a glance that it was not right that cabinet ministers, privy councillors and lieutenant governors should

(Continued on page 3)

