

The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N. B., July 13, 1911

IN KENT COUNTY

Conservative hack organs such as the \$20-a-day Gleaner and the editor-lacking St. John Standard are greatly exercised in mind over the outcome of the recent Liberal convention in Kent county. They are consumed with bitter grief because Mr. O. J. LeBlanc, M.P., was not again nominated as the Liberal federal standard-bearer. They show a remarkable solicitude for him and rush to the condemnation of the ungrateful men by whom, to use the language of these most influential journals, he was so heartlessly "turned down." The fact that advancing years had made Mr. LeBlanc desirous of retiring from the hurly-burly of politics and consequently made him ask that his name be not brought before the convention might seem to some people to provide a very good reason why he was not offered the nomination but to the Gleaner and the Standard it is a trifle unworthy of notice.

Then, too, these great newspaper organs are dissatisfied because the convention did not see fit to nominate three candidates for the provincial parliament. The nomination of candidates was a matter for the convention to deal with as it saw fit, regardless of how whatever action it took might be viewed even by the back organs of Premier Hazen. The convention chose to nominate one candidate, Mr. Clifford Atkinson—and a strong man he will prove too—but deferred the nomination of Acadian candidates until a little later date. The Conservative papers will find out to their sorrow all too soon that the Acadians of Kent have many men well qualified to bear a party standard—and the Gleaner and Standard sneers at the Acadian Liberals will not prove of much assistance to the Conservative candidates who may be chosen in the North Shore county.

Of course, the reason for the attention which is being paid the Kent convention by these Conservative papers is not far to seek. By fairy tales regarding things Liberal in Kent they hope to turn attention from the situation in the Conservative camp in that constituency. But the game is too thin. Go where you will in Kent—and the editor of this paper has been in the county very recently—and the same statement is heard: The present provincial Conservative ticket would be snowed under were its members to offer again for election. It is well known that the party managers have been scheming most assiduously to side-track Colonel Sheridan. Indeed, it would be a simple matter to give the name of the gentleman who is slated by the "machine" to replace him on the party ticket. It is well known also that Dr. Bourque does not intend to enter the lists again; that became known here in Fredericton at the last session of the Legislature. And it is perhaps even better known that should he be induced to offer for re-election his defeat would be certain. Dr. Bourque has not yet forgotten that it is Dr. Landry and not himself who bears the title of "Honorable" and this, coupled with the fact that he knows how thoroughly the bad roads and the general mismanagement of provincial affairs have discredited the Hazen government, makes him anything but desirous of entering the lists.

Hon. Dr. Landry, it is true, is in a somewhat better position than either of his colleagues. A cabinet office always carries a certain amount of prestige even when, as in the case of Dr. Landry, the minister is only a figure-head, knowing nothing of the

Yes

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department he is supposed to direct. The fact that he is a cabinet minister might prove of some advantage to Dr. Landry but, on the other hand, it must bring to him more than to his colleagues the acceptance of responsibility for the failures and the mal-administration of the Hazen cabinet. The medical commissioner of agriculture, as a matter of fact, is not enamored of the political game and would like to retire, but it is probable that he will be forced to remain on the ticket. Assuming that he leads the Conservative ticket in Kent he will lead it to the defeat which even staunch supporters of that party in the county admit is inevitable. The roads question alone is sufficient to damn the Hazen government in Kent, as men on both sides of politics there have told The Mail within the past few weeks, while the bridge policy with its gross waste of public money and the display of favoritism in the appointment of superintendents and foremen has itself driven scores of men who supported the Conservative candidates in 1908 to ally themselves now with the Liberals.

If it amuses the childish ones of the Standard and the \$20-a-day journal to give their readers fairy tales of Liberal troubles in Kent, The Mail would not be the one to wish them deprived of their pleasure. At the same time, if these journals wish to busy themselves with real political difficulties in the county in question they will find an abundance of troubles in the Tory camp.

Toronto Globe:—The man who asks what free trade has done for this, that or the other merely advertises his innocence. Free trade does not do for or do anybody. It is an absence of schemes for doing and doing for anyone. Protection does some people in an effort to do for others. Free trade is the absence of such schemes. It leaves all free to do for themselves.

Hon. H. R. Emmerson, M. P., was tendered a non political banquet at Shediac on Monday evening. The list of speakers who testified to the valuable service he had rendered to the County of Westmorland included: Hon. C. W. Robinson, Hon. F. J. Sweeney, F. W. Sumner, O. M. Melanson, C. M. Leger, M. P. P., and A. B. Copp, M. P. P.

Mr. F. P. Robinson, Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission, made a speech against reciprocity at the Douglas boom on Monday evening. Mr. Robinson has been engaged in farming for some years, and that he should be an advocate of the "let well enough alone" policy of the Tories is surprising to say the least.

Halifax Chronicle:—The Bordenites and the Bourassites are now working hand in hand to defeat Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but after the elections, as Sir Wilfrid humorously suggested, their unholy alliance will resemble that of the cat and the dog. There will be fur flying.

Now, asks The Regina Leader, why didn't Christopher Columbus follow the Borden policy and "let well enough alone?" Europe was making progress, so why run the risk of trying to find another field for its people and its trade on the other side of the world?

MR. WATSON PUTS BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS

To the Editor of The Mail:
Fredericton, N.B.,

Dear Sir:—I just wish to say a few words to explain my case in regard to the smallpox case at St. Mary's Indian Reserve, and while it seems strange, I have to try and make good for Mr. Smith what he himself says he has made a mess of.

I wish to place Mr. Smith in a little better position with the public, who seem to think he let Pete Watson do just as he liked about the amount of goods he was to send to the Indians while in quarantine.

The Board of Health has spoken of luxuries, and has decided to throw about \$230 off my bill, because they say we sent these luxuries without orders to the Indians. Now, clear of luxuries on my bill is nearly \$20 cash paid for wood, a small bill for horse hire—which Mr. Smith contracted—some barbed wire to fence the Reserve, along with some milk and meat bills, all of which I had to pay for in cash without profits, with the exception of the livery and the barbed wire, which I keep in stock. These are all charged as groceries, also tobacco, which Mr. Smith ordered specially, and still charging all the above as luxuries or groceries, we fed every Indian for less than eight cents per meal. Take out all the goods delivered to the Indian Reserve outside of eatables, and you will find it costs about nineteen cents per day to feed them. I am told it costs forty cents per day to feed every man at the boom, and they are not provided with tobacco, wood, livery and wire fencing.

Mr. Smith examined, or looked at, our bills three times in the thirty-nine days, and never scolded any for supplying too much, but, on the contrary, he scolded for not giving enough. Our orders from Mr. Smith were:—"Feed them well, but be careful and keep down the price." On one occasion Mr. Smith came in after having visited the Reserve and having heard a few complaints from the Indians, as well as the doctor, that we were not giving them all they asked for, and said:—"I will have to explain to you boys. We must feed these Indians so they can have no kick or the Dominion government, whom we expect to get our pay from, will not pay the bills. Keep it down as low as you can, but keep them satisfied." Now, the Indians were fed well; they will all tell you so—had good food and plenty. Still, could any jury or fair minded men agree that such a people could be fed on less than nineteen cents per day, which it figures taking our goods ordered by Mr. Smith "not eatables," and given enough to keep them satisfied and quiet, as our orders were? Would any grocery man in this city or vicinity take the contract to that effect at nineteen cents per day? I do not think they would.

Now, I will endeavor to explain how I happened to have the supplying of the Indians. Mr. Smith arrived at my store on April 11th, and asked me if I cared to supply the Indians. I asked him if it was all right, and he replied:—"I will see that you are paid." My remark was:—"Sure, Mr. Smith; Smith's farm is good for it," thanked him and told him Mr. Morgan would take his orders and instructions. I then explained to him our system, and the way the accounts were to be kept, and he said that was all satisfactory. He did not tell me that he had been turned down by three other merchants before coming to me, nor did he say that he was going to fight the bill when it came before the board, and have the merchant who took his orders cut short of his lawful money. If he had, I might have considered a few moments before saying even Smith's farm was good for it. He, it appears, was the only man to oppose the bill. I notice the councillors all spoke in favor of paying it. Their only objection was the itemizing of the weights of meat and perhaps the most of them do not altogether understand our computing scale system, which is as follows: Supposing a customer calls for 5

lbs. of pork, and it is 16 cents per lb., 5 lbs. would be 80 cents, but we are .01 per cent. light weight, the price 79 cents is shown up, and we must charge, pork, 79 cents, not 5 lbs. at 16 cents, 80 cents, as might have been done in olden times when it was so near weight. It is a very easy matter for us, however, to figure up the exact weights, and if the Board of Health or the Councillors would like to have the account rendered that way, would be pleased to have it so changed. Our system is a double check system and we kept every Indian's account separate for Mr. Smith, so he could see exactly what was given to each Indian. Every slip was checked and entered up by Mr. Hannebery, my book-keeper, and I do not think any man who knows him would for one moment question his honesty or ability.

I am very little at the back of the counter myself, and only on one occasion, on a busy Saturday, when Mr. Smith ordered us to take orders at the reserve, did I help to put up parcels for the Indians, and up till last night never read over the account. Mr. Smith and myself agreed to leave it with Mr. Morgan to handle, and Mr. Hannebery as accountant, and I found only one article delivered to the Indians which Mr. Smith told us not to send, and that was onions. There were about 12 lbs. in all sent, at 5 cents per lb. and surely onions are not luxuries. However, the Indians were bound to have them, and in order to fill Mr. Smith's order to satisfy them, we had to countermand his order of refusing the onions.

I notice in some of the papers where Mr. Smith in speaking said there was a laundry charge that he could not understand. There is no laundry charge on my bill. He spoke of kitchen utensils. There were two funnels, one 10 cents and one 12 cents charged, which we had for filling the molasses and oil into their jugs, and which we could not take back. In the transaction one jug got into the hands of the Indians and the guards ordered it left on the reserve. There was also a tea-kettle and a steamer got by Poulches. He wanted it and said he could not get along without it. We could not take his money and so had to give it to him.

Mr. Smith's only fault, that I can see, is that he did not read the accounts carefully before going before the Board, and he stated that a hundred dozen of eggs were delivered to the Indians, and the truth is there were only 62 dozen. Twenty-five dozen of these were ordered along with a ham for Easter Sunday, and 12 dozen at another time, both special orders from Mr. Smith. The balance was given on occasions when we thought it was correct to do so.

Mr. Smith speaks very highly of the amount of goods given to Paul and Canadian, and I might say Paul and Canadian got nothing from the Board through us that they are not accustomed to on their own account. I have occasionally supplied both these families and have had a bill for Canadian's family alone for over \$75 per month. Some of the goods bought then might have been considered luxuries but I cannot see how any one could consider plain groceries luxuries.

Indians live high. They all work more or less and when they buy they buy the best. Any of the store-keepers who supply them I think would agree with me there. Mr. Hoben would be a good man to consult re that matter. He could show how the Indians families live, I think. The Indians make more money and live better than the majority of whites. The Indian women make moccasins

(Continued on page five)

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