

## The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N. B., July 26, 1911

### THE DANGER OF OBSTRUCTION

At this time when so much is heard of obstruction in reference to the delay in the transaction of parliamentary business, it may be well to consider for a moment just what obstruction of this kind implies.

The natural tendency no doubt, is to sympathize with the weaker party to any struggle. For that reason many people have been following with somewhat of a sympathetic interest the course of the minority in the Canadian Commons in preventing the government from passing the reciprocity agreement to which the ministry is committed. But, whether one sympathizes with the opposition in the present fight or not, it is desirable that we turn from a consideration of the specific case and look at obstruction generally.

It is easily conceivable that there comes times with parliament when an opposition may quite properly resort to obstructive tactics. A government by abuse of its powers may keep from the opposition information to which the minority party is fully entitled. The government may exceed its proper powers. In such cases it must surely be justifiable for the opposition to hamper the government by obstructing the progress of governmental business to some extent. In such cases obstruction is a weapon which The Mail would feel a party justified in using.

On the other hand, of course, it is not excusable for any party deliberately to hinder the transaction of public business simply to further party ends. With that proposition no reasonable man will find fault. The obstruction of all public affairs simply to prevent the carrying through of one plan to which they object, when upon the majority must rest the onus for that plan, is for members of a party to resort to a method of battle which is but to be condemned.

It can readily be seen to what extremes such a method soon carries matters. If obstruction can be resorted to at the will of a political party government by the majority must soon become a farce. Organized obstruction places it within the power of a minority to dictate the affairs of government. In the face of it a government must either yield to the demands of the minority or resort to dissolution. Thus a minority may dictate to the ministry or bring about general elections, with all their disturbance of business and all their turmoil, when there is no pretext but some comparatively trifling question.

Under the system of party government the responsibility for the proper conduct of the country's business rests upon the majority. The general policy to which that majority is pledged has always been passed upon by the people, and to the people the majority must in due time come again for approval of the manner in which that policy has been put into effect and for approval of any modifications which may have been made. To say that any modification must first be approved by the people is to take away from a responsible government the right of ordinary freedom of action such as is given to the directors of any large private business.

Obstruction—occasionally the legitimate weapon of an opposition—readily becomes the instrument for the subversion of the real principles of responsible party government. For that reason it is a form of political warfare which is dangerous and should rather be generally condemned than given any noteworthy public approval.

### THE BANKING BUSINESS

The "Bankers' Magazine," discussing banks and their depositors, says that not so very long ago, perhaps, many bankers would have scouted the idea that it was necessary to offer any special inducements to secure a particular line of depositors. There was the bank—its capital and officers offering adequate guarantees of strength and capacity of management—take it or leave it alone. "No such haughty position is taken by the average bank of today. To cater to special lines of business has become a common practice, and even openly to ask for business not unknown." The growth in the number of banks, in the United States as in Canada, with a consequent increase of competition, has largely accounts for increased competition. "Not only must banks cater to lines of manufacture and trade, but they find it profitable to make a special appeal to the women depositors." The "Bankers' Magazine" says that probably the mistrust of American banks on the part of foreigners that was made the excuse for the Postal Savings Banks might have been replaced by confidence had proper efforts been made by the banks. "Whoever takes the trouble to explain to the people what differentiates a real bank from an individual who takes your money and makes away with it?" should draw clients to it. By letting the public know what a bank is, and what are its advantages, the barriers of distrust will be removed and the deposits and profits of the banks greatly increased.

Discussing the reciprocity question with the Amherst News a prominent Conservative farmer said: "I am still in favor of it, and can find nothing against it. The talk about annexation and breaking up the Empire has no weight with me. I am as loyal to Great Britain as any one else, but I can still be loyal and trade with that country." He then went on to say that reciprocity would mean a big development in our plaster industry and would give an impetus to quarry operations along the Lower Cove coast. Boston, Providence and other American cities are our natural markets for such undeveloped resources, and all the imperial preferences that we can obtain will be of no immediate benefit to Cumberland.

"Now I want to say, and I want to repeat, and my honorable friend can characterize it within parliamentary limitations to suit himself, I wish to state, bearing in mind all the circumstances, surrounding us, that in my judgment, giving it for all it is worth, there is nothing in the world that honorable gentlemen opposite are so much afraid of as an appeal to the people. And I say that they are doing their utmost to prevent this Government doing public business, and the immediate business of this government is to give the country reciprocity and redistribution. The Opposition by their action are doing their best to prevent our giving either one or the other." Hon. W. S. Fielding in the House of Commons on Monday.

Under the reciprocity agreement with the United States the following articles of farm produce will be allowed to enter that country free of duty: live cattle, horses, swine, sheep, poultry, dead or alive, wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, beans and peas, potatoes, sweet corn, turnips, onions, cabbages, apples, pears, peaches, grapes, butter, cheese, fresh milk, fresh cream, eggs, honey, hay, straw, timber, boards, planks and other also lumber, boards, planks and other sawn. What an opportunity will be open to the farmers and lumbermen of York County.

It would seem to be the duty of Mr. M. G. Teed, K. C., legal adviser of the Hazen government, to suggest to acting Premier Flemming and Acting Attorney General McLeod, that they get together and compare notes before allowing themselves to be interviewed again on the Valley Railway question.

Acting Attorney General McLeod was in Ottawa last week and made the discovery that the Tories "are going to sweep the country on the reciprocity issue." The acting attorney general has evidently had a pipe dream.

## TORY BLOCKERS TALKING AGAINST TIME AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, July 25.—The opposition have apparently decided that there shall be no reciprocity, no redistribution, and no transaction of public business by parliament until dissolution.

Following the plain-spoken words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Mr. Fielding yesterday, they renewed obstructive tactics today. After the period occupied by the discussion of Mr. Monk's resolution anent the proceedings at the Imperial Conference, the Minister of Finance pressed his resolution to continue the reciprocity debate.

Mr. Meighan, Portage Le Prairie, led off with over an hour's treatment of the thirty-five-year-old question of making western land grants to the pioneers of Ruperts Land.

The Portage Le Prairie man was followed by Dr. Sproule, who finds himself in his element these days when opposition tireless talkers are in demand, and by Mr. Haggart, Winnipeg, who with unusual frankness informed the house that he was called upon to "contribute to the obstruction."

When the question of land grants threatened to become threadbare, Mr. Boyce, Algoma, was on hand tonight to renew his dissertations on the preparation of the voters lists in Northern Ontario, which furnished him with a former speech on Friday. Meantime reciprocity waited.

### NO MORE LAND SCRIP

Hon. Mr. Oliver stated that it was the policy of the government not to issue any further land scrip in the western provinces. The interests of the bona fide homesteader demanded the occupancy of the land, and it was the intention to give every encouragement to the honest settler to establish himself on the prairie and in the woods without handicapping him by dispensing scrip lands to be held without occupation.

It was over six hours after the opening of the house when Mr. Fielding's resolution to resume the reciprocity debate, submitted within the first half hour, was finally passed. Mr. Smyth, Algoma, continued the discussion.

### TORIES DODGE VOTE

The opposition amendment to Honorable Mr. Fielding's resolution to resume the reciprocity discussion in parliament today was not permitted to come to a vote. It was prudently dropped by being declared "lost in division."

The discussion related to the premier's position at the Imperial Conference, and found the opposition unable to agree upon any specific criticism other than general condemnation of Canada's representation.

Mr. Monk, who submitted the amendment calling for the production of the full text of the proceedings, condemned because the premier had "Not stood alone for the autonomy of Canada," but had advocated and agreed to "a proposal under which there shall be consultation" between the mother country and the dominions.

Then Mr. Borden also condemned because the premier had worn "The well-recognized and somewhat threadbare garb of savior of the autonomy of Canada," and, finally, W. F. MacLean condemned—a somewhat straddling condemnation. He sided with his leader, but condemned the premier for permitting Britain and the colonial office from "still regarding Canada as a mere colony," adding his injunction that Sir Wilfrid should "wake them up and show them what Canada is."

### FACE BOTH WAYS POLICY

The discussion served only to emphasize the schisms which exist in the opposition ranks in relation to imperial relations and the effort which is being made to face both ways.

The text of Mr. Monk's want of confidence amendment set forth that the government should communicate to parliament forthwith "The complete report of the proceedings of the imperial conference of 1911." He argued that while Sir Wilfrid Laurier was being extolled by the ministerial press of Montreal for resisting

attacks upon Canadian autonomy, he had in reality lent himself to the development of closer imperial ties.

### SIR WILFRID'S REPLY

Sir Wilfrid Laurier heartily concurred in the statement that this information should be placed before the house as soon as it reached the government from the colonial office. He would consult with the governor-general on his return to Ottawa tonight with a view to cabling for it.

It was the decision of the conference that all its proceedings, reported verbatim, should be made public, and with that end in view the colonial office was preventing the proceedings. These, however, had not yet come to hand.

For himself, he had given out nothing to the ministerial press of Montreal, not to any other source. The official report would speak for itself.

"I shall be only too happy to lay it upon the table of the house upon its arrival," added Sir Wilfrid. "I am anxious to have my conduct at the conference discussed in this house and in the country. It will be a pleasure to have the opportunity of vindicating my course."

There were those who had not waited to see what he had said before undertaking to discuss and to criticize his attitude, and the sooner the report came to hand the better it would be for the government.

The premier added that it was unusual to submit a want of confidence resolution condemning the government for something for which they were in no way responsible, but were in the hands of the colonial office.

Mr. Borden nonplussed Mr. Lancaster and others of his supporters who had been approving Mr. Monk's utterances by stating that he entirely agreed with the prime minister in relation to his position regarding the official report. He held, however, that the reports which had appeared in ministerial organs throughout the country must have emanated from the ministerial colleagues of Sir Wilfrid who attended the conference.

At the opening of the house Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved for morning sittings, commencing with tomorrow.

Dr. Sproule objected. He wanted to know when the committees would be able to meet to proceed with the business on the order paper.

"The government propose to go on with the reciprocity measure," replied the premier. "Everything depends upon what is done with that agreement. If it is passed within a short time we shall then proceed to other measures. If not, the government must determine the course to be followed."

Mr. Borden asked for a statement as to the voters' lists as to the number already printed and delivered to members.

Hon. Mr. Murphy replied that a statement would be prepared and submitted.

### CONVENTION OF NEGRO TEACHERS

St. Louis, Mo., July 26.—The eighth annual convention of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools met in this city today for a four days' session. The membership of the association embraces the leading educators of the negro race in all sections of the country. Among those actively interested in the association and its work are Dr. Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute; W. T. B. Williams, agent of the Slater fund; J. A. Martin, principal of the city schools of Jackson, Miss.; Inman E. Page, president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Langston, Okla.; L. S. Clark, president of Baton Rouge College; Ida C. Plummer, of Washington, D.C.; I. M. Terrell, supervisor of schools of Fort Worth, and M. W. Dogan, president of Wiley University, Marshall, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Risteen went to Woodstock today to visit their son Mr. Fred Risteen. Their two grandchildren who have been here on a vacation accompanied them.

JULY 26th, 1911

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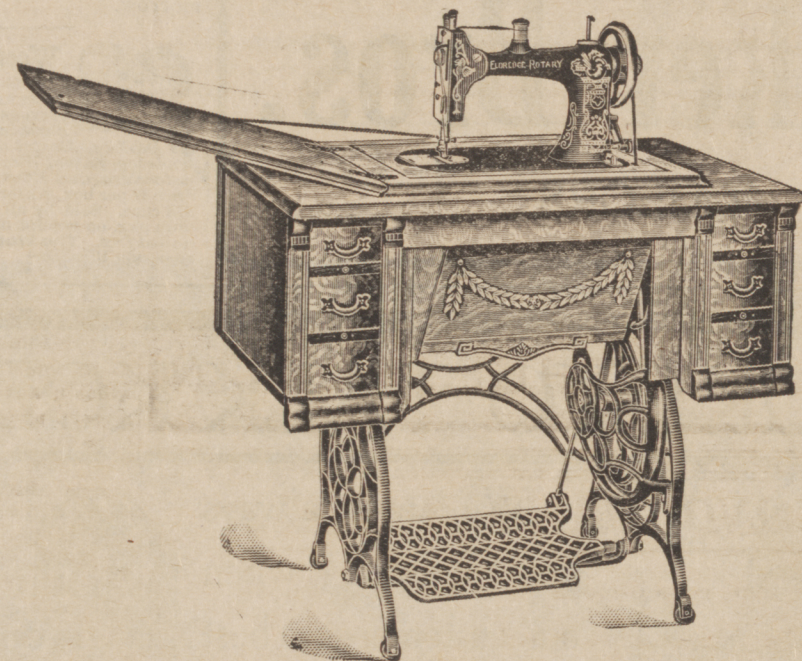
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