

The Daily Mail

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at No. 613 Queen Str by THE MAIL PUBLISHING COMPANY, Limit...
DONALD FRASER.....President

SUBSCRIPTION.

One month by carrier.....\$.35
Three months by carrier..... 1.00
Six months by carrier..... 2.00
One year by carrier..... 4.00
One year by mail..... 2.00
Six months by mail..... 1.00
Address all communications to The MAIL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Fredericton, N. B., July 21, 1911

UNKIND FATE

Fate is assuredly unkind. Grief has come upon us. The Mail is bowed beneath the displeasure of that pillar of the press, the St. John Standard. We are overcome with sorrow because reproof has been given us by the Standard which is now and ever will be the bulwark of what is upright and noble in deed—as it is chaste in its language—and will ever fight against any “gang of place-hunters, grafters and heblers” or any “bunch of third-rate politicians.”

Why, oh, why, did we ever comment upon the political situation in Kent? The Standard says that in doing so we made mis-statements. And, of course, the Standard, apologist for Mayes affidavits and kindred documents, must be the final judge. Far be it from us, to suggest that the Standard would state what is untrue. Far be it from us, to suggest that the St. John paper would distort the statements of other papers—even if it does credit to The Mail words which never appeared in our columns. Naught but what is noblest in character and chaste and elegant in expression is to be expected from our contemporary for do not the hand of a veritable Daniel and the hand of a Babington Macaulay supply the paper (with its weighty editorials upon subjects political?)

As we have said The Mail is duly humbled by the Standard reproof. In all humbleness, however, let us draw attention to an error—nothing more than an error, of course—in that chastening article from the paper. It is said in that article that Wednesday's issue of the St. John The Mail stated what was “untrue” when we declared that the editor of this paper had recently visited Kent county. Even Homer nods, and thus it was perhaps that the Standard fell into this error for the editor of The Mail spent some days in different parts of Kent very recently indeed. Of course, it would have been kinder for the Standard to admit that the Editor of this humble journal knows best where he has been. But perhaps we are unduly particular in making this claim.

The exchange has an over-abundance of tiresome foolishness regarding the situation in the Tory camp in Kent. Incidentally it repeats that piece of balderdash about dissatisfaction among Kent Liberals in regard to the federal nomination, though it is well known that Mr. O. J. LeBlanc desired to retire from active politics and consequently declined to allow his name to go before the convention. Passing on, the Standard sings a paean of praise because of the love which it says Dr. Landry and Dr. Bourque and Colonel Sheridan bear one another. Where is the sense in printing such buncombe? It deceives no one. Each political party occasionally has its internal difficulties and it is known that for months the situation among the Conservatives in Kent has been decidedly strained. The St. John paper seeks to evade the point in regard to the present attempt to “side-track” Colonel Sheridan. It seeks evasion by saying that Dr. Landry and Dr. Bourque have not tried to have some one else placed on the Conservative ticket in his stead for the next provincial elections. The medical commissioner of agriculture and his professional confrere may or may not be interested in the movement but, as The Mail said in a previous issue, “the party managers have been scheming most assiduously to side-track Colonel Sheridan.” And, in all probability, the Standard knows the details of the movement. If it does not know them The Mail would suggest that

one of the St. John editors take a trip to Rexton and meet the gentleman who is slated for the colonel's place on the ticket, if the “deal” goes through.

With many adjectives and general statements the Standard also tells of the remarkable strength of the Hazen government. Incidentally it indulges in a great deal of foolishness. It declares, for instance, that the government has “vastly improved” the roads in Kent. Nowhere in the province is the condition of the highways so bad as it is in Kent where, as all admit, they have not been worse in many years. People of both parties agree in this opinion and say so openly. How absurd the Standard chatterings must seem to the people in Kent in the light of this fact! The Hazen organ, established and maintained as a party hack organ and nothing else, speaks also of bridge work done in Kent under the present government. The more it discusses bridge work the better pleased will The Mail be as an opposition paper. In Kent, as in every county, one or two favorite heblers have picked the patronage plums which grow near every Hazen bridge—and the people are developing a very strong dislike for plum-pickers and for the parliamentarians who open the orchard gates to the party heeler and snap the lock when other men try to press through to the fruit trees.

Any paper which points out the blunderings and mal-administration of the provincial Conservative government and the subservience of the federal Conservative party to the corporations and the monied interests must expect bitter Standard criticism. The Standard staff is paid for grinding out just such stuff and the volunteer editors expect their reward will come some day, too. The Mail's only suggestion is that once in a while the Standard try telling the truth, just as an experiment, and that once in a while it should try to refrain from distorting what other papers say. But perhaps we ask for too much from a hack organ.

The ratepayers of Amherst yesterday voted against a proposal to grant Mayor Lowther \$1000 for his services as chairman of the street committee. The argument put up by the mayor's friends was that he had given his whole time to the work of superintending street repairs.

The Tories at Ottawa are continuing their obstructive tactics on the reciprocity agreement. Yesterday Mr. G.H. Cowan of Vancouver indulged in a lot of cheap talk against the pact. The Liberal members are taking no part in the debate being content to allow the Tories to repeat their stock arguments.

The U. S. Senate will vote on the Canadian reciprocity bill tomorrow, and its passage is certain by a good majority.

SIZES UP ST. JOHN.

M. H. L., a recent visitor to St. John, writes a column letter to The Dover, N.H., Tribune, giving his impressions of his visit. One paragraph in his letter is worthy of serious consideration: Ten years ago this city had shrunk from the previous census, but the last census shows a gain, and at present is a city of about 50,000, but no more activity than in a “Yankee” city of half that size. Although more than three times as many people as in Dover you see five times as many “bums” and “booze-fighters.” They crowd the seats in the shaded square and one is frequently met by the old query, “May I ask a favor of you?”

MEETING WITH SUCCESS.

Maritime Baptist:—Rev. H. B. Sloat, a New Brunswick and a graduate of Acadia and Newton, now in his third year as pastor at New London, N.H., is having a good degree of success in his work. During his pastorate \$1,500 has been spent in modernizing the church property, forty-three members have been added by baptism and five by letter; the pastor's salary has been increased and his expenses to the Philadelphia meeting were paid. It will interest many to know that in New London, which is an academy town, Dr. A. W. Sawyer, long president of Acadia, is remembered as a boy and also as an instructor in Colby Academy, and that his father was at one time pastor of the church. There are 1,500 students in the Academy, all of whom attend the Baptist church.

A strike of about seven thousand miners in the lignite (brown coal) district of Central Germany is in progress. The chief demand is for a substantial increase of the wage rate which is the lowest of all mining districts, except in Upper Silesia.

TORIES TALKING AGAINST TIME ON RECIPROCITY

Ottawa, July 20—The obstructionists in parliament are being forced into the open. When the house rose at 6 o'clock this afternoon a somewhat remarkable scene occurred in the chamber. The Liberal members, who have been sitting silent for the last three days, realized that their opponents are being hopelessly worsted in the tactical struggle and, as the speaker left the chair, burst in spontaneous cheering. They followed their cheers with militant songs, the demonstration holding the galleries for several minutes.

The opposition has committed itself to a purposeless obstruction of both reciprocity and redistribution. With Hon. Mr. Fielding insistently pressing for the transaction of public business, and the government and its supporters resolutely refusing to be drawn into extraneous discussions to kill time and hold up the business of the house, the onus of three wasted days since parliament resumed falls wholly upon Mr. Borden and his lieutenant. At midnight the house had been in session for twenty-one hours since resuming, while the government and its supporters have occupied less than sixty minutes of that time.

READ NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

J. D. Taylor, New Westminster, who occupied nearly three hours this afternoon in reading newspaper clippings, was encouraged by satirical cries of “Louder.” “Making a time record?” “Keep it up,” and other comments from time to time.

The preliminaries over, at 3.16 Mr. Fielding launched his resolution to continue the reciprocity discussion. Whereupon Mr. Taylor rose. He was still at it when the house took recess at 6 o'clock and continued to-night. The New Westminster man devoted himself to a discussion of the investigation of the Chinese immigration conducted by Mr. Justice Murphy. As the report of the commission has not yet been presented to the house any discussion of the matter would seem to be premature. But Mr. Taylor had time to fill. He warned the house that he proposed to read much of the evidence taken by the commissioner verbatim, and proceeded for hours to fill the columns of Hansard with newspaper reports and clippings on the investigation. His fellow Conservatives made no pretense of interest in the proceedings. The majority wandered out of the chamber, and others read, slept or attended to correspondence.

The government will probably keep the opposition hard at work at the bellows in the commons' chamber for some considerable time, perhaps until on into the second week in August, or at any rate until the present object lesson in attempted minority rule and gross obstruction has been made very plain to the country.

STILL HARDER FOR THEM.

Starting with Wednesday next the House will be asked to sit also in the mornings and the present hard labor of the opposition long distance talkers will then become even more trying. The situation is daily becoming more irksome to the members on both sides of the House but the Liberal majority are determined that the objectionists shall have a good dose of their own medicine and that the onus for compelling an appeal to the country shall be placed very squarely on the shoulders of the minority in parliament.

The ultimate outcome of the situation is plain to all. The members on each side are taking little interest in the talk in chamber but are waiting, waiting for the psychological moment for a tacit agreement as to dissolution and the speedy winding up of the remaining business of the session, which, by the way, if all put through, is in itself sufficient to keep the House busily employed for three or possibly four weeks.

MANY CONSERVATIVES DISSATISFIED.

A Liberal caucus will be held on Tuesday next, when the whole question as to party tactics for the rest of the session and as to the time for holding the inevitable election will be discussed. No Conservative caucus

has yet been called but the leaders of the party declare that there is no chance of any receding from the present determination to force dissolution. At the same time it can be stated by your correspondent on the word of a Conservative member of the House that there is considerable discord in the ranks as to the wisdom of the party's decision to stubbornly obstruct any progress with the reciprocity agreement. More than one opposition member believes that the present tactics will only lead to another decisive defeat for Mr. Borden at the polls and that the party made a mistake in not letting the agreement go through after duly fair warning of what might be expected once it comes into operation. However, Mr. Borden and his chief advisers from the east will listen only to the Tory voices of Toronto and Montreal and have committed the party too definitely now to recede.

On the Liberal side the unanimous feeling is that if there must be an election no better fighting ground could have been chosen than the one the government, with the assistance of the opposition, has found.

Mr. Taylor kept the bellows going for more than three hours. He was followed by Dr. Sproule, who took only fifteen minutes to present his request for the production of Justice Murphy's report.

Sir Wilfrid then broke the long silence on the government side of the House. He noted that he had not replied to Mr. Taylor because the latter was obviously speaking merely for the purpose of killing time in obstruction.

Dr. Sproule, however, had been moderately brief in his demand for information, and consequently deserved a reply. Sir Wilfrid gave a conclusive one. The report had not been brought down because Justice Murphy had recommended the prosecution of certain persons now out of the country and had expressly requested that in the interests of justice the report be not made public until these culprits had been apprehended.

Not satisfied, however, the opposition kept up the flow of useless talk until after midnight when the obstruction was varied by again resorting to anti-reciprocity speeches. Mr. Tholburn after an ineffectual attempt to get the premier to consent to an adjournment, was forced to go on with a long repetition of the stock arguments against reciprocity.

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"THIS DATE IN HISTORY"

1796—Robert Burns, the famous Scottish poet, died. Born Jan. 25, 1759.
1798—Battle of the Pyramids, in which Bonaparte defeated the Mamelukes, and thus subdued Lower Egypt.
1814—Inquisition restored in Spain by Ferdinand VII.
1822—Iturbide crowned emperor of Mexico.
1836—First railway line in Canada, from Laprairie to St. Johns, Quebec, opened.
1861—First battle of Bull Run (Manassas) resulted in victory for the Confederates.
1862—John S. Phelps appointed military governor of Arkansas.
1891—Statue of “Stonewall” Jackson unveiled at Lexington, Va.
1893—Commercial Bank of Milwaukee closed its doors.
1898—General Miles landed in Porto Rico.
1899—Robert G. Ingersoll, noted orator and lawyer, died in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.
1910—Roque Saenz-Pena proclaimed President of the Argentine Republic.

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