

The Daily Mail

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at No. 613 Queen St. 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 24, 1911

TORY OBSTRUCTION

No one supposes that there is anything more to be said for or against the reciprocity agreement than has already been threshed over time and again in Parliament, in the press and before the electors says the Montreal Herald. The Conservative newspapers themselves do not profess to regard the speeches which are now being made by Conservatives as having any novelty or interest: they are not printing a line of them and they are endeavoring to divert public attention from their length and futility by throwing all emphasis upon the very uninteresting scandal allegations which are being brought forward to obstruct the motion to consider the reciprocity bill. Not only is there no prospect of altering the votes of any members of the House (such a prospect has long ceased to be part of the reasons for the existence of parliamentary debate) but there is also no expectation of altering the opinion of the country by what is being said at Ottawa and no need for any further recording in Hansard of the justification alleged by opponents of the agreement for their hostile vote. There is just one single reason for talk, and that is the desire to prevent a vote upon the resolution.

This is not obstruction in the ordinary sense of the word. Obstruction of supply in order to secure desired information or to ventilate grievances, may be within reasonable limits a proper weapon of the Opposition. But the deliberate blockading of the chief measure of government business with the avowed intention of absolutely preventing its passing is nothing less than the arrogation to itself by the minority of the right to govern. "They won't be adopted this year!" was the cry of the blockaders when Mr. Fielding took advantage of the apparent inability of the Opposition to continue the debate, and moved that the resolutions be passed. That is not responsible government for it deprives the majority of the peoples representatives of the power to carry out what they conscientiously believe to be the will of the nation and the nation's best interests. In the absence of any adequate closure mechanism there is only one possible course for a government so placed, and that is to go to the country and ask that the electors make it plain to the blockaders that the government must be carried on. The wrecker who places the tie across the track is the man who must be held responsible for the derailing of the train, not the engineer who should have a clear right of way.

Hamilton Times:—The effort to make it appear that the Conservative government in 1891 was not in favor of reciprocity is a peculiarly brazen one. That the Canadian Tories were then begging for reciprocity is made clear by this statement from the leading Quebec Tory organ, The Montreal Gazette, of March 10, 1891: "Mr. Blain flatly objected to the appointment of a formal commission until he learned upon what basis the Canadians proposed to treat, and it was to assure the American Secretary of State that the Canadian government is willing to discuss the question on the broadest lines, even on the basis of unrestricted reciprocity, that Sir Charles Tupper returned to Washington with Sir John Thompson and the Hon. Mr. Foster."

Amherst News:—There is, however, but one great issue if the election is now forced by the Conservatives. It

is the issue of improved trade relations, and that is something every country seeks for the good of the country. On that issue the Liberals hold an impregnable position. They give the mother country a preference and after that they enlarge Canada's trade whenever a favorable opportunity offers. Once an opportunity has been offered by the United States and it would be folly to reject an opportunity so favorable to this country.

The Globe's Ottawa correspondent says that "the Conservatives have no expectation of winning and very little hope of improving their position. The journey of Mr. Borden through the west dispelled some of the illusions which influence the conduct of the party in opposing reciprocity. There has been a change of sentiment reported among the fruit growers of Ontario, and some of the manufacturing, financial and railroad opponents of reciprocity are said to be getting cold feet and receding from their position."

Medicine Hat News:—Every now and then you hear some one speaking of a "bad" boy or a "bad" girl, as if there were such a thing as a "bad" child. There may be untrained, neglected, misunderstood children, but never a "bad" child, as the world defines "bad." It is as though one neglected to pull the weeds in one's garden, allowed the plants and vines to grow as closely together as we do our smaller plants. It is not a "bad" garden—but a neglected one which would result in our having an unfruitful one.

Winnipeg Tribune:—If we are to believe that our farmers are intelligent and honorable, we must conclude that the vast majority will refuse to support any politician who is opposed to reciprocity, which means the freedom to sell the products of the farm without a tax, in the great market of 90,000,000 people living to the south of us. We make the above statement because our farmers, east, west, north and south, have time and again, with unanimous voice, demanded the removal of restrictions in trade.

Ottawa Free Press:—If the chorus of approval which has met the announcement of the new Anglo-Japanese treaty is, as seems likely the fruit of Laurier's demand that the self-governing Dominions should be consulted concerning treaties in which they are interested, Canada will have more reason than ever of being proud of her Premier and his broad policy which embraces both Canada and Britain in its operations.

Halifax Chronicle:—Mr. Borden may be able to force an election on the country, but he and his fellow obstructionists will not be allowed to "run things." As one Ottawa correspondent puts it, "he will no longer be allowed to play the role of the little boy who puts a railway tie on the track to see what will happen to the train. It is generally the worse for the little boy. It certainly will be the worse for the Borden boy and his playmates."

Quebec Telegraph:—The complete failure of Mr. Borden's western mission has been a bitter disappointment to the "interests" in the larger centres of the east, who have been financing the anti-reciprocity propaganda, and it is an open secret that they now realize that their crusade is hopeless, and that while they may be still willing to fill Mr. Borden's war chest for the campaign, they are fighting a losing cause.

Winnipeg Free Press:—One of Mr. Borden's entourage is credited with the statement that all the United States trusts favor the reciprocity agreement. The statement is the reverse of truth. The trusts in the United States are lying in wait for the reciprocity agreement with the tomahawk and scalping knife. They are quite as hostile to it as are our own trusts and mergers.

Brantford Expositor:—"Laurier is too British for me," was the declaration of Sir Charles Tupper in 1900. And now the Conservatives have gone back on that attitude and claim he is not British enough. Is there any policy before the people today on which at least a portion of the Conservative party has not reversed in the past ten years?

The Mail rejoices to learn that there was no truth in the report that the Liberal government resorted to a vile plot to wipe Mr. R. L. Borden off the map of Canadian life. The story that Mr. Borden had not been counted by the government census enumerators has been found to be based upon a mistake. The Conservative leader was duly included in the list of the Dominion's citizens prepared by the census men. Still, we would not have been surprised to learn that the story was true. These wicked Grits, you know, will do pretty nearly anything. Any doubter of this statement can have it confirmed on application to Mr. O. S. Crockett, M. P.

The bosh that certain men and papers have been inflicting on the public in regard to coolness in the Imperial cause on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too absurd to be given much attention. It may, however, be worth while to give this quotation from a recent editorial in the Liverpool Daily Post as reported in Montreal Star: "We doubt whether Premier Tisher or any of the premiers is really more Imperialist than Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

The Tories in Parliament seem to be showing great interest in the Fenian raid veterans these days and pretend to be anxious that they be given land grants. The Tories during their eighteen years of office flatly refused to consider the claims of the veterans and it was not until after the Liberals came in that they received medals in recognition of their services.

By a vote of 53 to 27 the United States senate yesterday passed the Canadian reciprocity bill. It will likely be signed by President Taft some time this week. The passage of this measure means that for the first time since 1866 the government of the United States is prepared to admit free of duty the natural products of Canada.

Windsor Record:—And yet forest fires can be prevented to a great degree. The appointment of more rangers, vigorous prosecution of careless campers and prospectors in leaving a blaze, and stringent regulations in regard to railway locomotives would accomplish wonderful results.

Halifax Chronicle:—Possibly the fact that the scheme to organize a demonstration in honor of Mr. Borden fell through made the Tory Mayor of Ottawa more unwilling to do anything in the way of welcoming Sir Wilfrid.

The bye-election in Yarmouth, N. S., caused by Hon. E. H. Armstrong's acceptance of a portfolio in the Murray government, will be held on August 16th. It is scarcely likely that there will be a contest.

Calgary (Albertan):—Swinging the arms and shouting "Thank God, I'm a Briton!" is not sufficient to offset the possibility of getting ten cents a bushel more for wheat. Try something more tangible.

MUCH IMPROVED

Extensive improvements have been made at the rear of the County Court House and the appearance of the river front in that locality has been made much better. The improvements were made by Mr. Thomas Davidson the janitor of the building.

CONDITION UNCHANGED

The numerous friends of Mr. W.B. Coulthard manager of the Royal Bank of Canada will regret to learn that his condition today is not improved. Mr. Coulthard was admitted to the Victoria Hospital a week ago yesterday.

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WORK ON VALLEY ROAD THIS YEAR

(St. John Standard.)

Hon. J. K. Flemming, acting premier, arrived in the city yesterday from Ottawa, where a conference was held last week with reference to the Valley Railway. Speaking of the result, Mr. Flemming said the negotiations were very satisfactory and great progress was made, many points being discussed and determined. While it was not possible to make public the details at the present stage he foresaw no serious difficulties ahead to prevent definite conclusions on all points being reached in the near future.

In reply to a question as to who will build the railway, Mr. Flemming said it was not possible to say definitely. Some further negotiations were necessary before a decision could be arrived at.

Referring to the fact that the time for beginning construction, four months from the date the act was proclaimed, expired on July 20, Mr. Flemming said as a result of the negotiations a number of amendments would have to be made to the act passed last year. The standard of construction had been changed and there were other important alterations. If a contract were entered into before the legislature met it could be provided for by an engagement on the part of the provincial government to promote the necessary legislation.

Asked when construction would begin, Mr. Flemming replied:

"I can repeat with more faith and greater emphasis the statement I made at Melville in March last, that I believe before the end of the present season work on the railway will be under way."

PERSONAL

Mr. L. A. Wilnot Lemont, of Chicago, has arrived in the city to visit his father, Mr. William Lemont.

Mr. A. W. Jonah of Sussex, is at the Barker House.

Mr. W. G. McKenzie of St. John, is in the city.

Mr. T. P. Edgell of Montreal, is in the city.

Mr. Arthur Kirkpatrick of St. John is at the Barker House.

Mr. R. A. Lawlor of Chatham, is at the Queen.

Dr. Carrie P. Parenteau of Chicago, arrived in the city at noon today.

Mr. James P. Bryne, M.P.P., of Bathurst, is at the Queen.

Major Hamilton-Gray, R.C.R., Halifax, is registered at the Queen.

Mr. Thos. C. Moore of Toronto, is in the city.

Mr. W. H. Angus of Toronto, is at the Queen.

Mrs. Allen and daughter Miss Dorothy of Providence are visiting Mrs. Will Chestnut.

Mrs. Albert Edgecombe is visiting at Cherry Bank on the river the guest of Mr. F. B. Edgecombe.

Mrs. Deedes and children are spending a week at Pine Bluff the guest of Mrs. Harry Chestnut.

Mrs. Henry Chestnut has returned from a pleasant visit with friends at Hampton.

Mrs. Cecil Fowler left on Wednesday to visit her sister at St. Andrews before returning to her home in Manitoba.

Miss Kathleen Hatt is summering at St. Andrews.

COURT MARTIAL TODAY

A court martial sat at No. 3 Regimental Depot this morning on the case of Sergt. A. Woods, charged with drunkenness. Major Hamilton-Gray, R. C. R., Halifax, was president of the court. The other members were Capt. F. A. Good and Capt. J. P. McPeake, 71st York Regiment. The finding of the court will be forwarded to Halifax before being made public.

FOR ALL-ROUND TITLE

Chicago, Ill., July 24.—The all-around championships of the National Amateur Athletic Union, which were originally scheduled to take place here tomorrow under the auspices of the Chicago Athletic Association, have been postponed until the second week in August.

JULY 18th, 1911

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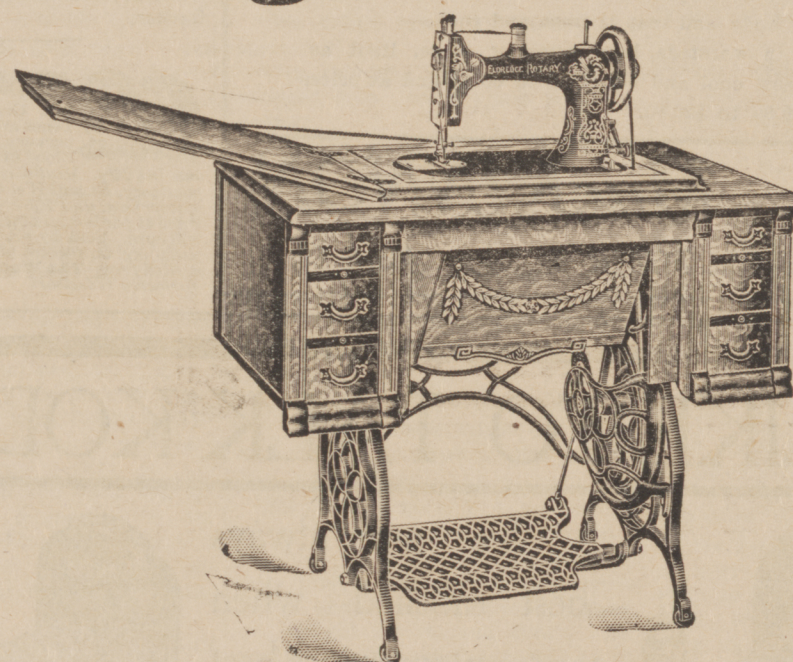
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