

The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 15, 1911

THE STAR ON SIR WILFRID

The Montreal Star of February 7th, thus sounds the praises of the great statesman who has controlled the destinies of Canada for a generation.

We would be lacking in frankness on our part if we failed to acknowledge the deluge of evidence that is reaching us that our appeal to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "the one man who can save Canada," voiced the feeling of the country.

The position of the Prime Minister today has only been paralleled but once in our annals; and then by Sir John Macdonald. He is not only at the head of a strong and loyal majority in both Houses; but it is a majority which is in a peculiar sense personal. When a leader has been as long as has Sir Wilfrid at the head of his party, and when he has carried the responsibilities of government as well for a decade and a half, the recurring general elections which return him to power become more and more of the nature of a personal plebiscite in his favor. Members of Parliament behind him tend to lose their character as independent participants in a national council and become to a greater and greater degree delegates sent to vote "Laurier." This may or may not be a good development of our Parliamentary system. It is certainly a departure from the old free Parliament at Westminster. But that this is told, will not be disputed.

And, being true, we must reckon with it. A successful revolt in the ranks against Sir Wilfrid would hardly be thought of as within the range of practical politics. Indeed, Sir Wilfrid has ever shown that no member of his Cabinet is essential to his grasp of power. He has lost powerful Minister after powerful Minister, and yet his prestige has remained unshaken. "Masters of the Administration" have come and gone; and yet the real master is more powerful today than he has ever been in the past.

Commenting on the above, The Halifax Recorder says:

Trde! Most true! But the question is, what shadow of an evidence have we that the country is threatened with any calamity? Is it to be regarded as a calamity that the people of Canada are to be permitted to multiply their sales and their profits by having opened up to them the second greatest market—they enjoy the privileges of the first now—in the universe? With reason a man might cry out to be saved from health and prosperity; a prayer only utterable by a lunatic. If Sir Wilfrid is the great, wise and omnipotent statesman which The Star paints him, then by the argumentum ad hominem, his decision in favor of reciprocity should be accepted as infallible equally as well as his possible pronouncement against it. Or are we to understand that he is to be regarded as a wise, patriotic and far-seeing statesman only when his opinions coincide with those of The Star? If that is what that enterprising journal means, we fail to see the modesty of the same. Sir Wilfrid "saved" the country in 1896 and will continue to save and preserve the same by keeping the Tories out of power. That is the real danger which this Dominion must guard against.

Winnipeg Free Press:—The attacks on Mr. Fielding have been cowardly and malignant. They have proceeded largely from those superior journals who have been prone to preach the duty of the public man in office to give his whole time and ability to his public duties, taking no thought

of his private responsibilities or the possibilities of the morrow. This is what Mr. Fielding has done. He has given, for 27 years, his whole life to his country, to the exclusion of every other interest; and now, as he approaches old age with impaired health he has been placed beyond the fear of want by a modest provision, made anonymously by his friends. The transaction is creditable to all concerned to Mr. Fielding and to the unknown donors; and degrades our political life to the level of the jungle that it should be made the occasion for wanton attacks upon the probity of Mr. Fielding.

Grain Growers Guide:—By placing upon the free list all the products of the farm the Government took the farmers at their word and there will be no complaint because the farmers meant what they said in asking for it. Although the free list may work hardships in some quarters, yet, taking Canada as a whole, ninety-five per cent. of the agricultural class will benefit from the placing of agricultural products on the free list. The new tariff conditions will create additional competition for the produce of the Canadian farms, and the Canadian farmers can meet all comers in production.

London Advertiser:—The invocation of Sir John Macdonald's name is utterly without sanction and unfortunate from the anti-reciprocity viewpoint. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier is aiming a blow at the Imperial connection, Sir John Macdonald did so twenty years ago. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier is declaring for annexation in 1911, so did Sir John Macdonald in 1891.

Halifax Echo:—If Canada did not study to increase her prosperity by every legitimate means she would be in the position of the man referred to in the Bible who wrapped his talent in a napkin to abide the return of his Lord. The world has a great deal to be thankful for that the British Empire is not of the wishy-washy composition imagined by the poet-preacher of Quebec.

Vancouver Province:—Nova Scotia has grown weary of furnishing the rest of the Dominion with brains and now proposes to utilize its home made grey matter in upbuilding the Province. The concentration of this power on royal development will produce wonderful results in the good old Province down by the sounding sea.

The old Tory argument that people can be made rich by taxation has lost considerable of its force during recent years.

DALHOUSIE TO RAISE BIG ENDOWMENT FUND

Halifax, Feb. 14.—The governors of Dalhousie College has started a campaign to raise a fund of \$350,000 to pay for the new site recently purchased to erect a science building, take over the Halifax Medical College and provide an endowment fund. The Halifax Medical College at present is affiliated with Dalhousie.

George S. Campbell, chairman of the board of governors, who is taking a leading part in this movement has secured \$30,000 from six friends of the college and other large sums have been subscribed.

Andrew Carnegie, it is expected, will contribute an equal amount to the fund as that raised locally. Dr. John Forrest, who has been president of the university for twenty-six years, has tendered his resignation to become effective in the spring.

GIBSON NEWS

Gibson, Feb. 13.—Surprise parties have been adopted by the young folks of this place. The girls have a clique of their own. The Boy Scouts of the United Baptist Church have "surprised" some of the prominent people of this place.

Mr. M. Hughes, who has been sick with La Grippe, has recovered.

Mr. V. Rideout is sick with kidney and heart trouble.

Mr. Victor Jenkins son of Rev. Mr. Jenkins, has been appointed teacher of the young men's Bible Class of the United Baptist Church.

Mr. W. D. Currie of Macnamac and Mrs. Charles Currie, Keswick Ridge have been visiting Mrs. Geo. H. Hyde.

Mr. Walter Wilson suffered from a stroke of paralysis lately.

AT THE BIJOU

"Roses of the Virgin" a story of the Northern woods. "Art and the Legacy" a Lubin comedy in which a young couple think they are wedded to art but find their mistake and are wedded to each other. "The Cowboys Innocence." See the cowboys riding the savage steers and horses. This is a program of merit.

MORE PRESS OPINIONS ON TARIFF AGREEMENT

GROWTH OF FREE TRADE.

Dr. Michael Clark, M.P. for Red Deer, Alta., went down to Boston the other day and talked to the Canadian Club of that city about reciprocity. He said that the United States will not stop satisfied with the fruits of reciprocity trade relations with Canada, but will go on until all barriers to trade are removed; that this will be but the working out of the declaration for freedom made by the colonies in 1776, and that through this means is to be largely worked out the condition necessary to the world's peace. His address was enthusiastically cheered. He read in the signs of the times "a world movement for democracy," of which he declared the free trade leaning a part.

"The protectionist and the advocate of reciprocity," he said, "are agreed that it is a good thing to trade. Where the protectionist parts company is when he attempts to show that you can promote trade by erecting barriers against it. I cannot see that, and the same conclusion seems to have dawned upon our statesmen on both sides of the line. Take the barriers down altogether."

"I believe the time is coming when you will see that these great and greedy combinations of capital are limiting your international trade loading the greatest inequalities among your people. I believe that you will take your proper place among the nations, showing to the world the greatest force it has ever seen, to lead to the boons of freedom and peace."

TRADUCING CANADIANS.

(Vancouver Saturday Sunset.)

Notwithstanding the political palaver indulged in by the only "trooly loile" party about the effect of the agreement on the British connection, the only effect of the treaty will be to cement the bonds of friendship between the United States and Britain. International trade promotes international friendship and good understanding. If Canada grows more friendly with the United States that will mean just so many more ties between them and Britain. Canada is not going to forget nor forsake the British connection. Canada's sentiments in that regard are not based upon trade nor any other material considerations. When the politicians suggest that Canada's loyalty to the Empire will be weakened by a trade treaty with another country they traduce Canadians and put their loyalty on a mighty cheap scale.

BENEFITS ARE NATIONAL.

(London Advertiser.)

The active opposition in Canada, apart from mere partisan clamor, comes from a few fruit and vegetable growers—few in proportion to the whole number of agriculturists—who imagine that the abolition of the duty will give Canadian people cheaper fruit and vegetables. They are confined to a few favored localities in which fruit-raising has become specialized.

The bulk of the people on both sides of the border look favorably on the arrangement, but they are not organized and vociferous as are the special and local interests whose pocket-nerve are touched.

The benefits of the proposed agreement are national, in their wide diffusion, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether there are even any local drawbacks. Many of the fruit and vegetable men believe they will find ample compensation in the United States market.

A CRIMINAL CAMPAIGN.

(London Adviser.)

The discussion of the reciprocity agreement in the House of Commons opens tomorrow. Unless appearances are deceiving the Opposition leaders will take their cue from the shameful agitation begun by The Montreal Star, The Toronto News and Toronto Telegram, and copied by some of the lesser organs. A respectable minority in the Conservative press—The Ot-

tawa Citizen, Ottawa Journal, and The Kingston Standard among others—have refused to lend themselves to these tactics, and it is probable that some of the western Conservative members of the House, and others representing rural ridings in the east, will also disassociate themselves from the vicious campaign set on foot by evil influences in Toronto and Montreal. The attempt to put the stigma of disloyalty upon those who favor the trade agreement is treason to this country, and to the British Empire. The mischief of it is matched by its hypocrisy; there is not a feature of the agreement to which any Conservative government before or after Confederation would not gladly have subscribed. It is just such a limited scheme of reciprocity as was incorporated in the First National Policy budget as a standing offer to the United States. It is the kind of reciprocity that Sir John Macdonald advocated on the eve of the election in 1891, when he posed as the savior of British connection. Down to 1896, until the last day of Conservative rule, a proposal of free exchange in natural products stood on the statute books of Canada."

RUSSIAN STUDENTS MAY GO ON STRIKE

St. Petersburg, Feb. 14.—Rioting at the University of St. Petersburg was renewed today with the possible result that every student in Russia will go on strike. The students of the university of Tomsk at Tomsk Siberia sent word today to the leader of the students here that they too would pursue a policy of violence unless demands were granted. So serious is the situation that the rector of St. Petersburg University resigned today.

The police made 200 additional arrests during the morning, it was declared, although the authorities have adopted a policy of secrecy and refused to give out information. Rioting students marched through the streets singing revolutionary songs and cheering for the late Count Tolstoi whose memory they all idolize.

GOVERNOR DIX DODGED SUFFRAGETTES

New York, Feb. 14.—A valiant band of suffragettes made an attempt to hold up and extort a promise of aid from Governor Dix today as the executive was leaving for Albany, but were foiled. The governor was apprised that the women were waiting at the Grand Central depot to meet him, so he went through a side entrance to the station, securing himself behind his companions until he got aboard his train.

ABOLITION OF PIGTAL IS A NATIONAL QUESTION

Pekin, Feb. 13.—A curious agitation significant of the times is going on throughout China with regard to the queue. The pigtails are being ridiculed by all progressives as an emblem, indicative of backwardness, distinguishing the Chinese from all other civilized peoples. Cartoons appear regularly in the Newspapers, showing the advantage of the queue to the assistant of the headman in the act of decapitating a criminal or depicting the various other animals that wear the tail, the dog and the pig being in the foreground. Editorials denounce the custom, and new groups of men and associations are daily falling into the line of reform. Progressive military officers, newspaper men, or employees of foreigners meet together and agree to sacrifice their queues, and then hold a fire cracker festival to celebrate the performance publicly.

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