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THE N. T. R. REPORT IS A PARTIZAN DOCUMENT

Has Been Given to the Public But It Will be a Fortnight Before It is in the Hands of Liberal Members of Parliament--The \$20,000 Manager Loaned the I. C. R. by the C. P. R. Was one of the Commissioners

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—Although the report on the National Transcontinental Railway will not be in the hands of the Liberal members of parliament for at least a week yet, pending the receipt of the printed copies containing the evidence on which the commissioners' conclusions are based, the partizan press report prepared and handed out by the government is meanwhile being exploited to the fullest extent.

Until the report is regularly before parliament in its printed form it cannot very well be discussed, and the Liberal reply to the charges of waste and extravagance will have to be postponed until then. Meanwhile, however, some things in connection with the report itself and with the motive underlying it are becoming increasingly clear.

THE REPORT CHANGED TO SUIT?

In the first place it is reported, on good authority, that although the report was written some months ago it was amended from the form in which it was originally received from the commissioners and dressed up to suit political purposes under the supervision of a member of the government.

In the next place it may be noted that intimation is now given by the government press that there will be no prosecutions as a result of the report and that the government will make no attempt to recover any part of the \$40,000,000 alleged to have been wasted.

The conclusion is obvious that there be no prosecutions because the commissioners have discovered nothing on which to hang any straight charge of graft.

The report in the final analysis seems to be designed as a culminating step to kill the whole project of government ownership in Canada.

A series of synchronizing events will undoubtedly be referred to as giving color to this conclusion when the report comes up for discussion in the commons. It may be noted in the first place that Mr. Gutelius, the ex-C.P.D. divisional superintendent, who was selected along with Lynch Staunton, the Hamilton Conservativ, lawyer, to conduct the investigation was it said recommended to Premier Borden by President Shaugnessy for the position. Mr. Gutelius was shortly afterwards made general manager of the Intercolonial at a salary of \$20,000 per year.

“Loaned to the government for two years,” was the way it was put by the minister of railways.

Mr. Gutelius has evidently been given a pretty free hand on the I.C.R. by the government. One of his first acts was to raise the rates. Then an agreement was entered into with the C.P.R. giving the latter company a very cheap rate for its trains over the government roads to Halifax.

Both these actions helped the C. P. R. against its competitors in the maritime provinces. Also they did not tend to popularize government ownership and operation of railways, and furthermore the raising of the rates on the I.C.R. paved the way for a policy of handing it over to the C.N. R. as is said to be seriously contemplated by the government.

While Mr. Gutelius was acting as general manager for the I.C.R. he was also helping to complete the report on the National Transcontinental Railway drawing pay at a rate understood to be very considerably higher than he got formerly from the C. P. R.

DEGRADING N. T. R.

Meanwhile Major Leonard, who had superseded the former National Transcontinental Railway commissioners, acting under instructions from the government, was proceeding to materially change the character of the road. Details of these changes were given in the commons last session by Hon. George P. Graham. Heavier grades and sharper curves than were originally planned were allowed in some instances. These changes were not made with the consent of the Grand Trunk Pacific and were consequently a violation of the original agreement with the latter road as to standard of construction.

Finally, there comes the report of Messrs. Gutelius and Lynch-Staunton declaring the road had cost \$40,000,000 too much and intimating that the Grand Trunk Pacific would never be able to pay the required rental.

C. P. R. INFLUENCE EVIDENT

The real and ultimate object in view, according to a shrewd suspicion, which is now being whispered in parliamentary circles, may now be guessed from the above. The shadow of the C.P.R. is beginning to loom large over the whole “scandal” report. If the Grand Trunk Pacific does (Continued on page five.)

SIR WILFRID ON REDISTRIBUTION

The Bill Presented in the House for Its Second Reading

Liberal Leader Does Not Believe in Playing Politics in Case of P. E. Island

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—Premier Borden's redistribution bill stands over for a few days. It was presented for second reading at today's sitting of the Commons, when a largely attended House heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal leader, in an earnest deliverance, almost entirely freed from anything of a contentous character and which at times drew expressions of approval from both sides of the House commend the action of the government following the Liberal precedent of a decade ago and appealed for the same devotion on the part of the members of both political parties to considerations of equity, justice and fair play.

“Let us have the measure so framed,” declared Sir Wilfrid, “that we will have through it at the proper time an absolute and most accurate expression of the public mind without any consideration as to who may win or who may lose.”

The Liberal chief submitted but one criticism. He deprecated any attempt to “play politics” with the province of Prince Edward Island by nominally referring the question of the reduction of the representation of the island province to the committee, when it was recognized that the committee had neither jurisdiction or discretion in the matter and urged a frank and honest facing of conditions as they were.

Sir Wilfrid also submitted the suggestion that the membership of the committee be increased from seven to nine, in order that every part of the Dominion might be represented by the minority as well as by the majority.

LAST DISTRIBUTION FAIR.

During the deliberations of the committee which did the work in 1903, said Sir Wilfrid, there were very severe cleavages and some hot discussion, but I claim now to its credit, that when its report was finally presented to the House it was in the main accepted as fair. But two of its dispositions were greeted by severe criticism, those of the County of Hastings and those of the County of Waterloo. After the discussion of these two cases in the House I will not say that I am altogether satisfied that the objections taken by the then opposition were well taken but I believe that it was better to err on the side of an exceptional manifestation of the spirit of fair play and justice, and the bill was amended accordingly. Thus I stand now within the judgment of both sides of the House when I say that no criticism has been heard as to the fairness of the redistribution of 1903. (Applause.)

ONLY FIVE HUNDRED AS A STARTER

Premier Fleming's Contribution to Guthrie Fund Was Not Satisfactory

The following interesting little story, bearing on the election has been forwarded to the mail by a reliable correspondent:—

“Seated in the Barker House the other day were a well known commercial man and a near relative of Harry McLeod, M. P. Upstairs was Premier Fleming. Seeking an audience with the Premier was York's federal member. Soon the Premier came down stairs and left the hotel. Directly Mr. McLeod approached his relative and asked “Did you see the Premier?” “Yes,” was the reply. “The blankety, blank blank just went out and what do you suppose he will only give five hundred dollars as a starter.” The topic under discussion was the Guthrie Campaign Fund.

COLLEGE CHUMS TO-NIGHT.

All Indications Point to a Rattling Victory for Scott

Whirlwind By-election Campaign Closes To-night--The Tide of Public Opinion is Running Strongly With the Independent Conservative Candidate--In Several River Parishes He Will Make Almost a Clean Sweep--McLeod-Guthrie Forces Realize That Their Ship is Fast Sinking

The campaign in the York bye-election will close tonight and will go down in history as one of the hottest that this old county has ever seen. Mr. James M. Scott, according to the predictions of his friends, will be elected by a substantial majority, which will be given him by both city and county. Reports from all districts indicate that the revolt against the Tory machine has reached a height which had not been expected by the most sanguine of Mr. Scott's supporters. The only question now is getting the voters out. In Fredericton and all the towns and villages a big vote is expected. In the country drifting snow has made the roads bad but there will be an excellent opportunity today to break roads.

METHOD OF VOTING.

Under the present election law, the ballot is secret. Official printed ballots will be found in all booths behind a screen. These may be used or an elector can write his ballot either in the booth or before going to the poll. Black pencil or black ink must be used to write ballots. The surname of a candidate alone is necessary. Nothing but the candidate's name should be on a ballot. The polls will be open at nine a.m. and close at four p.m.

AT NEW MARYLAND.

James M. Scott spoke at New Maryland last night. The meeting was a most enthusiastic one and his supporters predict that Mr. Scott will be given two-thirds of the votes of that parish. Kenneth Baird was also one of the speakers. New Maryland has been made solid for Scott, largely through the attacks upon Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith made by The Gleaner.

Reports from other places where meetings were held are to the effect that there was large attendance and keen interest.

CAMPAIGN JOKES.

The organ of the McLeod-Guthrie ring which has been springing jokes ever since the campaign began, capped the climax last evening by telling of a horrible plot to send John Oldham to McNutt's Mills with a box of cigars to bribe the electorate. Another gem which was observed in The Gleaner last night was the story that Stanley Scott, son of the independent candidate, had secured a large number of \$1 and \$2 bills at the Royal Bank of Canada on Monday. Unfortunately, for the truth of the story, Stanley Scott has not been in the Royal Bank office since it was renovated some months ago.

BET AWAITING TAKERS.

A number of prominent supporters of James M. Scott on Monday afternoon made up a bet of \$1,200 on his election. Up to noon today the bet remained uncovered. It will remain open until ten a.m. tomorrow.

The offer of W. F. Thornton of Hartland, to bet \$2,500 on Mr. Scott's election, has attracted much attention. N. P. McLeod informed The Mail's sporting editor yesterday afternoon that Guthrie's supporters would put up \$2,500 in a local bank today and would ask Mr. Thornton to cover the bet here in Fredericton. Mr. Thornton's offer was to deposit an equal amount at a bank in Hartland.

TWO FACED CAMPAIGN

Candidate Guthrie and his henchmen have been setting their sails to catch every favorable breeze. They realize that they are in a tight place, and are fighting with their backs against the wall, and making the most desperate efforts to win. While McLeod and Guthrie have been going about the country endeavoring to whip the Orangemen into line, henchmen of theirs have been wandering about the city making frantic efforts to induce the Roman Catholic electors to vote for Guthrie. In this connection the name of Rev. Dr. Smith is being freely used and

Guthrie and McLeod are held up as men who have always a friendly feeling towards their Roman Catholic fellow citizens. In the case of Orangemen being appealed to the boast is made that it was the Orange order which put McLeod and Guthrie where they are today, and it is their duty to stand by them. McLeod and Guthrie are also going about begging the voter of the day—Grits as McLeod always delights to call them. They are saying that it is not a party contest, therefore the Liberals should take hold and help them down “old man Pinder.” In this connection it can be said with truth that the Liberals received far better treatment from Mr. Pinder during the past two years than they ever did from McLeod or Guthrie. Liberals who approached Mr. Pinder on public business were at least received in a gentlemanly manner and their representations were always given earnest consideration. Mr. Pinder never acted on the principle that he was sent to the Legislature to serve the ends of the henchmen of the Tory party. What have Liberals, especially those of the Roman Catholic faith, ever got from McLeod and Guthrie except abuse, slander and misrepresentation. Surely the Roman Catholics have not forgotten the “back door” methods which they employed during the last Federal campaign. Surely the Liberals have not forgotten the disgraceful tactics which these men resorted to in previous campaigns in order to bring about the defeat of the Liberal candidates. Who has forgotten the flamboyant speech made by Guthrie in front of the Barker house at the close of the last local election in which he gave utterance to the most outrageous slanders against the Liberals. Every effort will be made tomorrow by Guthrie's heelsers to steal this election, but we believe the intelligent electors of York will roundly condemn them and their disgraceful tactics.

THAT HORSE TRANSACTION

To the Editor Fredericton Mail, Sir:—

Will you kindly allow me space in your paper for a few remarks, concerning an article printed in The Gleaner, of Feb. 13, entitled, “Mr. James K. Pinder.” Concerning the Gleaner's remarks in the first part, I have nothing to say, but judging by the amount of truth there is in the statement made about what the Gleaner calls a “Kentucky Horse”, the other statements might amount to very little. Now, Mr. Editor, I will try to be as brief as possible. In the first place, the “Kentucky horse” is a “Clydesdale.” The Gleaner says that Mr. Pinder bought this horse for his own use. Now, there are eight men in this parish equally responsible with Mr. Pinder in this matter, their names can be given if desired. The writer is one of them; and the reason that this horse has not been paid for is because we did not get what as a company we were entitled to get; that is a first class stock horse.

We were informed by Mr. Pinder in the winter of 1910 that the Government had two Clydesdale stallions on that hands, that they wanted to sell, and thinking to improve the stock in this part of the county, we agreed with Mr. Pinder that we would take one of them, thinking the horse would at least pay expenses. For the first two seasons the horse was practically a failure, for stock.

Then arrangements were made for exchanging for a horse that the Government had in Ontario. Mr. Pinder for the Company bore the expense of making the exchange. And the last horse has proved to be of less value than the first in respect to stock. The Gleaner says that Mr. Pinder uses this horse in his lumber business, and on his farm. This is a false statement, as at the present time, he is in the writer's stables

and has been there since July last, not doing any work at all, and kept at the expense of the company. Every season this horse has been on the road with an experienced driver, and when not on the road he is kept at the companies' expense and has been a loss to the company all the time. Now, Sir, I trust that I have made the matter of the Kentucky Horse plain and might say that the horse is in good condition, and that the Government can have him at any time, and as are willing to lose what we have paid on him.

I might also say that I am a Conservative but have always been careful of giving the Gleaner as authority on political matters, and will be more careful in the future, than I have been in the past, on this point.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your kindness, I remain yours respectfully

A. H. CHAPMAN,
Pinder York Co. N. B.

TEACHERS AND POLITICS

Sir,—I see by Friday's issue of your paper that the chief Supt. of Education has brought to light a regulation forbidding officials of the Education Office taking any part in elections.

If he is not too busy at this time in the city I wonder would it be too much to ask him to peruse Reg. 25 of the Board of Education behind all those school teachers up here in this end of the county who are giving out in their schools the place and dates of Guthrie's meetings. No doubt some of the lady teachers are ignorant of the regulation and when a good Baptist Deacon goes to them and suggests or requests them to give out Government meetings they do so, and did announce the Government candidate's meetings in the parish last week. Anything to beat old man Pinder; but they can't do it just the same.

Yours, etc.,

RATEPAYER.

Lower Southampton, Feb. 16, 1914.

WHY MR. McLEOD WAS DROPPED

To the Editor of The Mail:—

Sir,—In your account of the nomination day proceedings, I noticed that McLeod said that Pinder had his name struck off 29 ballots. I want to tell that gentleman as one of those 29 that I struck his name off because he was against our railway. Mr. Pinder and his son George Pinder all day long pled with us at this poll “not to strike McLeod's name off unless we wanted to cut his (Pinder's) throat.” But, when I went into vote, I struck it off just the same.

If it hadn't been for Pinder and his son pleading with us McLeod wouldn't have got 29 votes at this poll. You'll see next Thursday how many his “boy” will get. Now if it isn't unlawful I would not mind having my name printed at the bottom of this letter. Hurrah for Jim Scott.

Yours truly,

AN ELECTOR

Temperance Vale, Feb. 14, 1914.

“COLLEGE CHUMS” PRESENTED TO APPRECIATIVE HOUSE

U. N. B. Dramatic Society Scored Another Success--Play Will be Repeated Tonight

The U. N. B. Dramatic Society scored a big success last night at the City Opera House when they presented “College Chums” to a large house. The play will be repeated

(Continued on page five.)

PYTHIAN JUBILEE LOCALLY CELEBRATED LAST NIGHT

Fredericton Lodge, No. 6, Knights of Pythias, commemorated the Golden Jubilee of the Order in Castle Hall York street, last evening. There was a good attendance of Knights and others. Past Chancellor R. B. Wallace presided, with Rev. Neil McLauchlan on his right and Rev. A. F. Newcomb on his left. Chancellor Commander W. B. Burden was in the vice chair, with Rev. Dr. Smith on his right.

The first part of the program was a special Golden Jubilee Ritual, prepared by the officers of the Supreme Lodge, K. of P., which was very beautiful and much appreciated by those present. Following this special ritual a very excellent address on Pythianism was delivered by Past Chancellor Rev. Neil McLauchlan. A musical and literary program was next rendered as follows:

Orchestra.
Euphonium solo, Mr. Richard Wickett.
Cornet solo, Mr. D. W. Wallace.
Banjo solo, Mr. Cecil Holder.
Vocal solo, Mr. George G. Parker.
Reading, Mr. W. A. Walsh.
Violin solo, Mr. John R. Walker.

Quartet, Messrs. Cooper, Mitchell Holder and Edney.

Piano solo, Mr. J. K. Oldham.

Orchestra.

Vocal solo, Mr. F. L. Cooper.

Flute solo, Mr. Hilton McKnight.

Quartet, Messrs. Staples, Bailey, Burpee and McLean.

Every number on the program was well received and highly appreciated. Mr. Holder played on his new “Special Grand Concert” banjo made by Frederic Bacon, one of American's foremost banjoists. The instrument is one of great power, scope and sweetness, its softest tones being distinctly heard in every part of the large Castle Hall. It is certainly one of the best instruments of its kind ever heard in Fredericton and under the skilful manipulation of Mr. Holder, gave great delight to the audience.

At the close of the above program, refreshments were served and a very enjoyable social hour was spent.

An orchestra of twelve pieces, under the leadership of Mr. Temple Sutherland, rendered very excellent music during the evening.