

THE DAILY HERALD

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Manager. Editor.

DAILY HERALD.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

MR. BLAIR'S RETIREMENT.

In a letter to Mr. Thomas McAvity, chairman of the St. John Liberal executive committee, Hon. A. G. Blair announces his retirement from political life, and addresses himself briefly to the people of this province who have so long given him their confidence.

Mr. Blair says: "It was well understood when I retired from the cabinet, that I did so owing to a difference of opinion on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway project, and on that question only. As to the general policy of the government, I was in accord with my colleagues."

Although the question upon which my difference with the government arose was an important one, I entertained the decided view that neither this consideration nor the fact that I held strong opinions on the subject, imposed upon me the duty of separating myself from my party on all other questions, or of going into general opposition. It appears to me that I would acquit myself of responsibility for the measure which I was unable to approve, when I should state in parliament, as strongly and fully as I was capable of doing, the grounds and reasons for my resignation (and should follow up the same by voting against the government's bill).

I was also of opinion that my duty as a retiring minister did not demand that I should take part in any controversial discussion which should ensue between the government and the opposition, during the passage of the details of the bill through its committee stage.

Upon this view I acted, and in the light of all that has occurred of the amendments proposed to the bill and the discussion which took place after the second reading had been carried by a large majority, I cannot see that I would have strengthened my attitude in opposition to the project, had I participated in subsequent debates.

The opposition itself very much complicated the situation by proposing an alternative scheme to that of the ministry. This alternative proposal involved a distinct admission that the necessity for a new railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific was one of immediate and pressing urgency. To this view I could not subscribe. I had contended strongly that the few months consideration given by the government to its measure during the pressure of parliamentary session was quite inefficient to justify the country in embarking upon so great an undertaking. How then could I endorse the alternative which the opposition had adopted after two or three weeks consideration only, and to which it was prepared to commit the country?

The course I ought to take under such circumstances seemed to me clear. It was obvious that my attitude on the railway question had not found favor with either party and standing alone, it has been equally clear that upon this question I must so remain.

I am free to admit that from the outset I have been averse to breaking with my friends and former colleagues, and with the party to which I have all my life adhered, if it were possible to avoid doing so.

There appeared only one way in which a permanent rupture of my party relations could be avoided, namely, by retiring from active political life, and upon this step I determined, as being not only in accord with my personal feeling, but a justifiable and proper course to take under existing circumstances and from the point of view of public duty. Having relieved myself from responsibility for the government measure by resignation, and justified this

step by my statement which followed, I have not felt that I was under any obligation to enter upon what would be in my opinion, a fruitless and unavailing struggle.

My decision, therefore, was to retire from the field of active politics, and having reached this conclusion, which I did about a month before the close of the recent session of parliament I at once, as I considered it proper to do, informed the prime minister of my determination.

In making this decision known to the public, I desire to accompany the announcement with an expression of my profound regret that circumstances have rendered the severing of the political connection between the citizens of St. John and myself imperative.

As the representative of the city in the House of Commons, I have experienced nothing but the kindest and most considerate treatment from its electors belonging to both political parties. I have been proud to represent St. John, and the confidence which its people have in such unqualified measure rested in me as their representative, intensifies my sorrow in the parting.

May I flatter myself with the hope that these regrets are shared mutually between us, and that my constituents will acquit me in this act of withdrawal of being indifferent to their wishes, or being inspired by any other motive than such as they can appreciate, and commend."

Mr. Blair then addresses a few words to the electors of New Brunswick, in which he expresses his warmest thanks for the confidence reposed in him for an unbroken period of over twenty years, and announces that he has been offered and accepted the chairmanship of the railway commission, and hopes in his new sphere to be able to render useful service to the country.

The Herald wishes all its readers, patrons and friends A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Longevity of Animals.

Statistics of the longevity of animals may not be very accurate, but they are interesting reading. Among the larger species of cattle there is some approach to uniformity. Thus for the horse and donkey the extreme limit is about 35 years and for horned cattle about 30. For the dog it is given as 25, while sheep, goats, pigs and cats are grouped at 15. Among birds the disparities in length of life are very remarkable. While a goose may live to be 30 years of age, a sparrow 25 and a crow 100, ducks, hens and turkeys die of old age at 12. The palm for longevity is divided between the elephant and the parrot, which both often pass the century. The swan and the eagle also are very long lived.

Twelve Miles an Hour.

At the beginning of the last century the royal college of Bavarian physicians sought to forbid steam railway travel because it would induce delirium furiosum among the passengers and drive the spectators crazy, while an English quarterly said that it would as soon expect the people to suffer themselves to be tied to one of Congreve's rockets as to trust themselves to the mercy of a locomotive going at the prodigious rate of twelve miles an hour.

Ma, I am at the head of the class, How's that? Dick? Teacher says I'm the worst of all the bad boys in school.

What made your linens coarse? Common soap! Sunlight Soap saves linen.

SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE

See the Octagon Bar.

DR. F. W. BARBOUR,

SURGEON DENTIST,

President and Prizeman Boston Dental College Class 1891. Registered by Mass. State Board of Legislation. Facilities and experience in all branches of Dentistry. Special attention given to saving aching or abscessed teeth.

Young lady in attendance.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RY.

PUBLICATIONS.

"The New Highway to the Orient."
"Westward to the Far East."
"Fishing and Shooting in Canada."
"Time Table with Notes."
"Around the World."
"Climates of Canada."
"Quebec—Summer and Winter."
"Montreal—The Canadian Metropolis."
"Houseboating on the Kootenay."
"Across Canada to Australia."
"Banff and the Lakes in the Clouds."
"The Yoho Valley and Great Glacier."
"The Challenge of the Rockies."
"Western Canada."
"British Columbia."
"Tourist Cars."

Write for descriptive matter, rates, etc., to
C. B. FOSTER,
D.P.A., C.P.R., ST. JOHN, N. B.

Compliments of the Season

This being my first season in business I take the opportunity of wishing my many friends and patrons all the compliments of this festive season. I would also inform them that I will continue to keep on hand a supply of

COAL

Including Old Mines Sydney.

Carleton County
and Ontario Oats

Also Cracked Corn, Corn Meal, Cottonseed Meal and Heavy Feeds of all kinds, Pressed Hay and Straw. I have a quantity of Coarse and Rock Salt which I will dispose of at cheapest rates.

Fred. H. Everett,

Successor to J. S. Scott, Campbell
Street, Tel. 115. P. O. Box 83

A Merry Christmas

... AND ...

A Happy New Year

TO ALL.

Jas. D. Fowler,

The Optician and Jeweler,

Opposite Post Office,

Fredericton, N. B.

DECEMBER 31st.

FAREWELL 1903.

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

Take this opportunity of thanking their numerous friends for the very liberal patronage of the past year, and solicit a continuance of the same. We wish one and all

A Very Happy New Year.

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

Agents for Standard Patterns.

CHRISTMAS FURS

Now is the time to purchase Furs.

Ladies' Black Astrakhan Jackets
from \$25.00 to \$45.00

Fur Lined Capes from \$15.00
to \$48.00

Ladies' and Children's Storm Collars, Muffs, Caps and Mitts in all qualities of Fur.

DEVER BROS.

Dr. Bark's Toilet - Ammonia -

Perfumed with Violet, for the Bath. 25 cents pint bottle. Dr. Bark's Violet Witch Hazel, an elegant toilet requisite. 25 cents a bottle.

Druggist, opp
City Hall.
Telephone 178

Geo. Y. Dibblee

Portrait Frames

We have just received a choice line of medium grade 16 in. by 20 in. Portrait Frames. These Frames will be sold much cheaper than they can be bought from travelling salesmen.

JOHN G. ADAMS,

Down Town Next above Queen Hotel. Phone 26

We take this opportunity to thank our many friends for the large patronage they have given us during the year just closing and to wish them all

A Very Happy New Year LEMONT & SONS.