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DAILY HERALD.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1903.

BUILDING UP THE WEST.

Some evidence of the wonderful growth of the great Canadian west is furnished by Mr. John Nicholls, until recently editor of the Greenfell Sun, who is visiting eastern Canada.

In conversation with a reporter Mr. Nicholls spoke enthusiastically of the marvellous development which has taken place, especially in the district which he has made his home. The town of Grenfell has more than doubled within two years, now having a population of 1,200, as compared with 459 at the census in 1901. The surrounding country has increased in population in like proportion. As illustrative of the growth of business, Mr. Nicholls mentioned that whereas two years ago the town boasted of two grain elevators, it now has six, with a capacity of 250,000 bushels, and these are insufficient to store all the wheat, having been blocked up a month ago. Last year there were more than 500,000 bushels of grain shipped from this point, and the quantity will be considerably larger this year.

Last summer there were many homesteads available for settlement in the district, but so rapid has been the influx of settlers this year that all are now taken up, and the railway lands in the district are also very largely occupied. Prices have risen from \$3 to \$6 and \$10 per acre. The school lands were readily sold at \$9 per acre last fall, and cultivated land is now selling in the district at as high as \$20 per acre for farms in the vicinity of the town. The crop was somewhat damaged by the local snowstorm of early September, which caused some commotion in the outside world. The farmers although they suffered loss owing to the depreciation of the wheat to a lower grade, are not in any way despondent. Mr. Nicholls, who has followed the usual custom in the west and gone into grain raising, realized \$19.50 per acre for his grain, a sum \$1.50 per acre less than his neighbors, owing to delay in marketing.

The immigration into eastern Assinibola has, he says, been of a satisfactory character. The Galicians make excellent settlers, and are exceedingly anxious to acquire the language and to become citizens. They are quick to learn, obedient and law-abiding, and energetic workers. Touching upon the question now agitating the people of Great Britain, Mr. Nicholls said the sentiment of the west as far as he could gather it was, "If the English people choose to put a duty upon their food, it is all right for them to do so, but we have not asked it." So far as he knew no farmers' organization from Halifax to Vancouver had asked for that preferential tariff on Canadian wheat upon which Mr. Chamberlain assumed the loyalty of Canadians depended. But so far as a mutual preference was concerned, the universal opinion of the people of the Northwest was favorable, not only as between Canada and Britain, but throughout the empire. So far as the preference already given to British goods by Canada was concerned the people of the Northwest not only approved of it, but would be willing to have it extended so far as to abolish the duty upon those goods, because the existing preference had been found to inure to their advantage in cheap goods.

ABOLISHING RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS.

Premier Coombs, of France, proposes abolishing all religious schools of that country, and has prepared a bill dealing with the matter which provides for the dissolution, accompanied by the

sequestration of property, of such congregations as exist solely for the purpose of teaching, and for the partial sequestration of the property of those congregations which in addition to teaching also conduct hospitals for the indigent. Five years are allowed for the complete carrying out of the proposed law, the adoption of which will entail the closing of 1,299 schools for boys, 2,195 school buildings where girls are taught, and all the schools conducted by the Christian Brothers. The bill also provides for the enlargement of the public schools conducted by the State. It is estimated that the completion of the premier's plan will cost the State \$5,000,000.

TROUBLE FOR MR. TAYLOR.

Mr. Geo. Taylor, who represents Leeds in the House of Commons, is a Tory whip, and rather offensive in his attitude towards the Liberals, is in for trouble in his constituency, and it seems probable that he may not be re-nominated. It all depends on the action of Mr. A. E. Donovan, who is a strong man and a good speaker, and has not only stamped the riding several times for Mr. Taylor, but has campaigned in different parts of the province. In 1896 he went to the convention and received over a hundred votes, and probably would have won had it not been announced that Mr. Taylor, if elected, was to get an office, thus leaving the way open to Mr. Donovan to go to Ottawa. But the defeat of the government spoiled all that. In 1900 his friends say that he refrained from allowing his name to go before the convention on the understanding that it was Mr. Taylor's last appeal, and that he would be given the nomination at the next election, the one now approaching.

Unless Mr. Donovan positively refuses, his friends will insist on this arrangement being carried out, or in the event of Mr. Taylor asking for the nomination again, that Mr. Donovan will oppose him in a convention.

NEITHER CRINGE NOR SNARL.

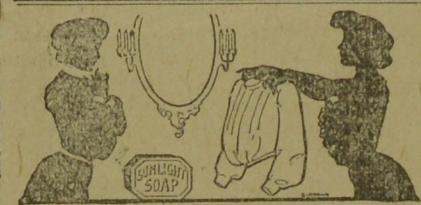
Sir Richard Cartwright, in his recent speech at Toronto, described his conception of the attitude which Canada should display towards the United States. Summed up briefly, it was that we should neither cringe nor snarl at our neighbors. He believed that the two English speaking nations are friendly to each other now and prepared to remain so. Great Britain was instrumental in securing the United States a free hand during the war with Spain, and this service was returned when during the South African war the United States refrained from intervening on behalf of the Boer republics, and thus prevented other nations from recognizing them in such a way as to greatly prolong the war. From his standpoint he strongly deprecates anything that would stir up evil feeling between the two countries.

It seems to be generally understood, says the Montreal Herald, that the plan to get Hon. Geo. E. Foster to run for St.

Antoine division has fallen through, and that Ald. Ames has the Conservative nomination clinched. Canvassers are busy gathering names on Ald. Ames' requisition papers, and many who held off in the expectation that Mr. Foster would run, are beginning to sign their names. Mr. Foster evidently wants a safer seat than St. Antoine.

The Toronto Globe contains one of Bengough's inimitable cartoons, representing John Ball putting this pertinent enquiry to Hon. G. E. Foster "Can it be that you are the Geo. E. Foster whose votes and speeches I find recorded in Canadian Hansard against the preference to me?"

The Liberte of Paris confirms the report that Dreyfus is to be reinstated in the army, will be given command of a regiment, and that any officer expressing disapproval will be vigorously dealt with.



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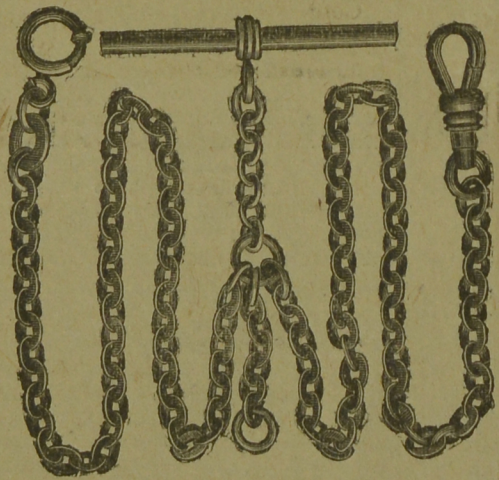
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