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Manager. Editor

DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1904.

HONEST GOVERNMENT.

It is the boast of the Laurier government that their opponents, notwithstanding they have turned on the searchlight in every possible direction, have been unable to show that a single dollar of the large sums of public money they have administered has been dishonestly expended. In fact it has been remarked by writers in both Great Britain and the United States, who have given attention to our progress, that not only have we gone ahead of the world in material advancement, but that the scandals that had disgraced our public life under the old government came to an end with it.

Yet the present Tory opposition and press have the effrontery to talk about political corruption, in a general way of course, for as soon as they are called upon to specify they have to shut up or refer to some trivial matter which at the worst is but a matter as to whether a certain expenditure is judicious or not. What would the good people of today think if a minister of the gospel should feel constrained to go into the pulpit and speak as follows, as did the Rev. Neil McKay, of St. John's church, Chatham, on Sept. 27th, 1891, and the truth of what he said has only not been disputed but was at that time reiterated in even stronger terms by the most influential divines of that time:

In the face of recent disclosures in high places we cannot flatter ourselves that, so far, we have built either wisely or well. The scandals, the reeking dishonesty, the shameless and unblushing mendacity which have been laid bare in our highest political circles are today a stench in the nostrils of the civilized world. Our public men have made the name of Canada a by-word and a reproach. The time has already come when every lover of his country, who has anything to do with the formation or direction of public opinion, should boldly speak out. For my part this Canada is my country. I have been born under the shade of the maple leaves. I have spent my life upon her strand, and I hope and desire to lay my ashes in her soil. I love my native land too well to permit of my keeping silent in this the day of her humiliation and reproach.

There is no question that systematic and organized robbery has prevailed even within the precincts of parliament, implicating and besmirching not only members of parliament but some of the advisers of the crown. It is undeniable that prodigious sums of public money have been abstracted from the public treasury and transferred to the pockets of unscrupulous and rapacious politicians. When dishonest men get their hands into the public chest it is not surprising that they should steal. They appear to have stolen and some at least of their peculations have come to light. In connection with those disclosures there are two astonishing facts confronting the people of this dominion.

1. The defence which these thieves rely upon. They say, in substance, we admit that we have taken the public money, but we have not enriched ourselves with it. We have used it for the purpose of the party—that is, the stolen money has been used to bribe and corrupt the constituencies and carry the elections, therefore the stealing of it was no

crime! What can be said of the character of men who can resort to a defence like this. Candidly, they must either be fools, or they must imagine that the people of this dominion are fools. The man who enters my house while I sleep and steals my money is a thief. The man who meets me on the highway, knocks me down and takes my money by force is both a thief and a robber; but they are both gentlemen in comparison with the scoundrel who first robs me and then coolly tries, with money unjustly snatched from my hands, to bribe me to become as black a rascal as himself.

2. The second astonishing fact is that parliament seems ready in the blindness of party spirit to condone their offences and whitewash the perpetrators of wrongs. The spectacle to which the country is today treated is not those of a great political party whose fair fame has been tarnished by dishonest followers shaking these off and cleaning its skirts from the defilement which they brought upon it. It is rather the spectacle of the concentration of political force to bar investigation, to prevent the truth from being reached, and to justify by the weight of parliamentary majorities men whom the common sense of the country must and will hold in execration as political criminals. The government of our country thus formally transfers to its own shoulders the responsibility, morally and politically, of the crimes which it condones and the criminals whom it shields.

That the Opposition makes the issues is a familiar campaign aphorism and the only exceptions are cases similar to the present situation at Ottawa, in which the Opposition is unable or unwilling to make any issue worth mentioning. As the party dreads all the live questions of the day, the leaders should be prepared to profit by the example of Kansas, where Senator Harry McMillan has made his bill to prohibit snake-charming exhibitions the feature of his election campaign. The only important plank in his platform is opposition to the practice of removing hats in the elevator of the Capitol at Topeka. Truly there is no excuse for a campaign without issues.

Britain's prestige in the east must be greatly strengthened by the results of the expedition to Tibet, and by the conspicuous successes of the Japanese over the Russians. England's greatest menace in India, and throughout Asia, has been Russia, and it will be difficult to overestimate the effect upon the imaginative Oriental mind of the reverses which the Czar's troops have met at the hands of the despised Japanese, and of the ease with which a British expedition has entered the sacred city of Tibet. Whatever the ultimate outcome, Britain's hold on India, and her prestige throughout the East, must be immeasurably strengthened.

Among the American tourists who visited Fredericton during the past few days was Mrs. Aline Devin of Chicago, a great grand-daughter of George III. Mrs. Devin is a literary woman, at present connected with the Chicago Times-Record, and her visit to New Brunswick was for the purpose of making a study of the Petitcodiac bore and the reversible falls at St. John. She also visited several points of historic interest throughout the province.

Eyes Tested Free

By

FOWLER,
The Graduate Optician, - - opposite Post Office
Fredericton, N. B.

In Sunday's battle in the Straits of Corea the Japanese saved 600 men from the sinking Russian cruiser Rurik of the Vladivostok squadron. Some weeks ago that squadron sank a practically defenceless ship off the Korean coast and left its passengers to their fate. And the Russians appeal for sympathy on the ground that they are fighting a race of "yellow barbarians!"

The Toronto Mail and Empire is worrying the life out of the phrase, "Keep both hands on the Union Jack." As there was never a time in the history of Canada when the Imperial tie was cherished more, nor when there was less disposition to seek another future in Annexation or Independence, our contemporary appears to be engaged in a work of supererogation.

The Tory organs which are now so busy exhorting the loyal people of this country to keep both hands on the Union Jack, do not like to be reminded that "once upon a time" that party was so busy burning Parliamentary buildings and issuing annexation manifestoes that they quite overlooked the fact that there was such a flag as the Union Jack.

The Vladivostok squadron was the victim of superior speed, superior artillery, and probably superior marksmanship on board the Japanese pursuing cruisers. It is fatuous to suppose that either the Baltic or the Black Sea fleet could succeed where the Port Arthur and Vladivostok squadron failed.

The aggregate foreign trade of Canada last year, consisting of the total imports and total exports for the fiscal year ending June 30th last, is estimated to amount to \$473,000,000, as compared with \$467,000,000 for the previous year, or an increase in round numbers to \$6,000,000.

The Woodstock board of trade is going to take up the question of wood freight rates with the C. P. R. The Dispatch says: "The people of Woodstock are tired of being bled for fuel, by the three dollar a load rascals on one hand and by the C.P. R. freight rates on the other."

The burning to death of two condemned negroes in Georgia, helps to keep in mind the race problem of the south. Booker Washington's plan to make the negroes skilled workmen, seems to be the best prospect of a solution, and this is far from bright.

With reference to the report concerning the prime minister's health, which have been appearing in certain papers, Dr. Prevost, Sir Wilfrid's physician, said today: "You may say that while Sir Wilfrid is tired after the arduous work of the session he is in good general health and is not under treatment of any kind, whatsoever."

Radium is not sold by the shovelful, nor can you buy for 25 cents a good liniment by the bucketful, but there is value in every drop of Kendrick's Liniment.

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