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DAILY HERALD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1904.

AN UNPREJUDICED VIEW.

No wonder Hon. Geo. E. Foster was nettled when he arose at the Canadian Manufacturers' banquet at Montreal to reply to the toast of Canada and the Empire, and no wonder he sought to make political capital out of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's observations on the tariff and preferential trade.

The Tories have made light of the British preference offered by the Liberal government and eagerly accepted by British statesmen, and have pretended that it was given in a spirit of bargain and sale, which did discredit to Canada. Mr. Foster specially has preached that doctrine, but the ground was swept from beneath his feet at the Montreal banquet by no less a person than the eminent Sir Howard Vincent, M. P., a British statesman of worldwide fame and one of Chamberlain's right hand men.

This was the cause of Mr. Foster's irritation at the banquet. He had to follow Sir Howard Vincent in replying to the toast of Canada and the Empire, and that gentleman, who is an unprejudiced observer so far as Canadian politics is concerned, knowing neither Grit or Tory, had just given Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Mr. Fielding and the Liberal government a splendid certificate of character. We quote from the report of Sir Howard's remarks as follows:

"Sir Howard then referred to Sir Wilfrid's visit to Great Britain at the Diamond Jubilee festivities, when he succeeded in securing the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties which Tupper, Macdonald and Thompson had tried in vain to do. This appreciation of Sir Wilfrid's work was greeted with loud applause.

He also paid a high tribute to Hon W. S. Fielding, and said no better epitaph could be given any man than the words he used in July, 1898, when he said, "From tomorrow morning British goods will pass the custom houses of Canada on more favorable terms than foreign goods." (Loud applause.)

"In that," said Sir Howard, "you made no huckstering bargain; you presented no pistol to Britain's head, but you gave her this preference in a generous spirit, and after that I think no one could say that Canada has made no offer. Your Premier is a man of silver speech, but he has given deeds, not words. (Applause.)

"You have shown your loyalty to the Union Jack, and I know you will join me in hoping that under that flag may the empire ever grow stronger and stronger. May it be the pioneer of progress and te pinnacle of prosperity, piety and plenty. ((Loud applause.)"

Is it much wonder that Mr. Foster was nettled after hearing testimony to Liberal fidelity and statesmanship from so eminent an authority as Sir Howard Vincent. Every Tory in the banqueting company no doubt felt just as Mr. Foster did. The very logic of events, the splendid results for Imperial unity from the British preference, carried by the Liberal government, impelled Sir Howard to make the acknowledgment he did, and to throw down with a crash the Tory outcry against Liberal regared for imperial as well as Canadian interests. "Keep both hndss on the Union Jack" is the motto which impudent Tories have adopted from the dismissed Dundonald, but they did not dare utter it in the presence of Sir Howard Vincent's testimony, as quoted above.

TORY OPPOSITION.

If New Brunswick shares in the benefits to flow from the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, it will be in spite of the Tory leaders, who opposed the legislation providing for the road at every stage of its progress through parliament.

The Ontario Tories were especially aggressive in opposition to the Eastern section, and on the stump they are pursuing the same tactics.

Speaking at Mr. Borden's meeting at Stratford, Wednesday, Mr. McLaren, the Tory candidate in that constituency said:

"I have been accused of not being in favor of another transcontinental railway. I always said I was in favor of connecting the two oceans by a transcontinental railway, but that I was not in favor of the Winnipeg-Moncton branch, I think it is throwing so much money away. It is a shame and disgrace to spend so much money to parallel and paralyze the Intercolonial and part of the Grand Trunk and part of the C. P. R."

There is a laugh on the chief Tory organ, the Toronto Mail and Empire. A few days ago it claimed credit for Lord Dundonald of having prepared the new Militia Bill, which passed parliament last session, and proceeded to praise that measure as one of the greatest things that ever happened in Canada. Later it was proved beyond a doubt that Sir Frederick Borden had prepared the bill, and that Lord Dundonald had nothing at all to do with the matter, and the poor Mail and Empire was left in a most unenviable position. It cannot take back its praise of the measure, nor can it successfully deny Sir Frederick Borden the credit.

The politicians will be glad that the Sussex Record, under Mr. McKenna's management, is to remain independent. The new editor is in charge this week and among his literary gems is the following, referring to the recent murder at Havelock:—"Some occult something must be found in explanation, and there is a lesson too important to be ignored to be learned from incidents, of which the Havelock affair is unfortunately only a component of an ever increasing multiple." Fancy what would happen a candidate for parliament were such things slung at him by the Record.

Mr. Logan, the Liberal M. P. for Cumberland, has had an important accession to his friends in that constituency. After he had addressed a meeting at Pugwash the other night, Mr. Alex. Wilson, an ex-warden of the county, an influential man, and hitherto an active Conservative, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Logan and expressed his intention of supporting the government in the approaching election. Mr. Wilson has been frequently mentioned as a probable candidate for the legislature in the Conservative interest.

Hon. E. J. Davis, The Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands, has been twice unseated since the last general election. He is a very strong candidate, however, and will doubtless regain his seat, lost through the indescretion of over zealous friends.

Up at Brampton, Ont., the other day, during the reception to Mr. Borden, the chairman announced in the opening address that on the platform was the identical chair in which Sir John A. Macdonald had sat in 1891 during a reception tendered to him in that town, and he invited Mr. Borden to also sit in it. The Tory leader accepted, but what a misfit it was. It would take several men the mental size of Mr. Borden to fill the old Tory chieftan's chair.

Mr. Borden, who is touring Western Ontario, has bad news from Montreal. The Canadian Manufactures' Association in annual session in that city, and composed largely of Conservatives,, has approved of the government's resolve to construct the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, and expressed its satisfaction at the creation of the Railway Commission, of which Hon. A. G. Blair is the head.

New Brunswick Liberals are getting down to business. A convention of the party for Kings and Albert to nominate a candidate is called for Sept. 29, and the convention for Sunbury and Queens for a similar purpose, is to meet at Gagetown Oct. 4, at 2 p. m.

If Speaker Laurence accepts the Liberal nomination in Colchester, Mr Gourley will have opportunity to retire to the trenches.

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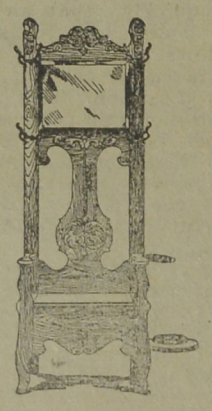

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