

SIR ROBT. BOND ON CONFEDERATION

Premier of Newfoundland Asks What It Means,

THINKS THAT CANADA'S HANDS ARE FULL ALREADY.

Island Cannot Participate in Direct Benefits

OF GENERAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE DOMINION—NO TRADE WITH CANADA.

St. Johns, Nfld., April 22.—"I do not see how any public man can say he is opposed to confederation before he knows what the terms are; I should assume that that would be the attitude of every rational and thinking man. But if you ask me whether I think confederation today is seriously considered by the people of this country I must emphatically answer no, I don't think so."

These were the words of Right Hon. Sir Robert Bond, Premier and Colonial Secretary of Newfoundland, when he gave me the opportunity of interviewing him on the question of the entrance of the colony into the Dominion. Sir Robert, although one of the Newfoundland delegation that took part in the abortive negotiations at Ottawa in 1895, is generally known as a pronounced opponent of confederation, and as equally pronounced a supporter of a reciprocity treaty with the United States. In 1890 he went to Washington to negotiate for reciprocity, and the famous Bond-Blaine treaty was the result. That treaty, at the instigation of Canada, was blocked until a year or so ago, when Colonial Secretary Camborne removed the embargo. Sir Robert Bond again went to Washington, and the outcome was the Bond Hay treaty, which is now before the Foreign Relations Committee of Congress.

Sir Robert is termed by his friends a "professional politician," a most misleading description, in that he is possessed of considerable private means. Trained for the Bar, he entered politics when quite a youth, being elected Speaker of the House of Assembly when only twenty years of age. For years he has devoted his whole attention to politics. He is keen, shrewd, courteous, affable and diplomatic. He can keep one eye constantly on the watch for a squall or a change in the political wind, while the other is never taken off the sails of the ship of state. He was Speaker of the Newfoundland Assembly when twenty years of age, colonial secretary from 1889 to 1894, and again from 1895 to 1897, and has been a premier since 1900. He has, therefore, a thorough knowledge of the political situation in the colony of how easily a government with a comfortable majority can suffer sudden defeat, and fully realizes that a Newfoundland politician, unable to tell what a day may bring forth, must be ever prepared for emergencies.

Sir Robert makes it his business to endeavor accurately to gauge public sentiment in the island. At the present time that sentiment is against confederation, but it will be observed that his premier, so far as his expressions to me are concerned, is by no means an anti-confederate.

Cannot Participate in Advancement.

"With most of our thinking men the chief difficulty is that of arriving at the conclusion that any direct benefit would be likely to accrue from the entrance of Newfoundland into confederation," said Sir Robert. "Our isolation makes our position, I believe, different from that of any of the Canadian provinces. The fact of our being severed from the mainland makes our position totally different from that of Nova Scotia, or even Prince

Edward Island, say. We could not participate in the general scheme of advancement with the other provinces if we became such.

"Then, again, I have no doubt whatever, from my conversations with our leading business men, that they feel that our local industries would materially suffer—in other words, that they would be closed up in a short time, and that Newfoundland would be nothing but a receiving or dumping ground for Canadian products."

Anti-confederate Feeling Growing.

"Is the feeling against confederation as strong today as it was twenty years ago?" I asked.

"I think there is a stronger adverse feeling than there was twenty years ago," replied Sir Robert. That could probably be attributed to the much greater prosperity of the country and the stronger feeling of independence on the part of all the inhabitants of the island.

Asked whether the subject had at any time been intelligently and thoroughly discussed before the electorate, the Premier said: "No, I cannot say that it has. Occasionally articles have appeared in our local papers on the subject, and certain of your Canadian papers which circulate in the island have dealt with it in a general way. That would be the only means by which the great mass of our people would acquire any knowledge of the matter."

Must See the Terms.

"It has not been shown," continued Sir Robert, in answer to another question, "that our fishermen would benefit. How can any man judge as to the question of confederation until he sees the terms in black and white? What does confederation mean? You say confederation is the union of this colony and Canada, but what does it mean from a financial standpoint? Neither you nor anybody else could answer that question."

"I know what it meant in 1869 and I know what it would have meant in 1895, and I can very emphatically say that no sane politician would attempt to put such terms as those before the people today. We refused those terms when we were in distress; we certainly would not accept them today, when we are on the crest of a wave of prosperity, and there is no possibility of our accepting them at any time in the future."

Where is the Benefit?

"Yes, I suppose there is a strong national, a strong Newfoundland sentiment. I have no doubt many of our people pride themselves upon this colony being the oldest dependency of the British Crown, and there would be, I imagine, with some of the idea that we should not become absorbed by the Dominion and lose our identity."

But that is mere sentiment and could be overcome probably. The main question that must not be lost sight of by us is, Where is the benefit to come from? That would be the question that reasoning men would put to themselves. We can judge now only by the terms that have been placed before us.

No Trade With Canada.

"There is another reason why probably confederation would not be regarded as entirely acceptable, and that is, we have no particular trade with Canada. You are not our customers; you have within the borders of your own country sufficient to supply all your needs of the only products which we can export. The United States, on the other hand, presents a very large market for precisely those things which the colony at the present time can produce—fish, oil, seal skins, lumber, pulp, minerals. For none of these articles, with the exception of iron ore, can we find a large, if any, market in Canada."

Canada's Hands Full Already.

"You say this colony would be developed by Canadian enterprise and capital, but would it?" continued Sir Robert. "Would this country likely to be developed any more than it is at the present time? Have you not now got your hands full in connection with the development of your great western territory? Could we reasonably expect that Canadians would turn their attention to the development of the latent resources here while great known and rich lands lie before them closer at hand?"

"There is a great deal in sentiment," said Sir Robert, "but you cannot talk sentiment with the practical, everyday man; it is no use talking sentiment to the fishermen of this country. You must show them how their condition is to be materially improved in dollars and cents, that is to say, by improved trade."

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To put the brake on the wagon going down the hill is a help to the horse, when the wagon is heavily loaded. But what driver would think of applying the brake to a loaded wagon going up hill? If he did, his sensible horses would probably balk. Many a man is in the condition of pulling a load up hill with the brake set against him. When his stomach is out of order, and the allied organs of digestion and nutrition impaired in their functions, a friction is set up which has to be overcome in addition to the performance of daily duties. A foul stomach makes a foggy brain, and the man with a disordered stomach has often to grope his way through the day's business like a man in a fog. He forgets appointments. Problems seem presented to his mind "wrong end to." This condition is entirely remedied by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It puts the stomach and digestive and nutritive system into a condition of perfect health, and gives a clear brain, a steady hand and a light step for the day's duties. When constipation clogs the channels of the body, Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets will work an effectual cure of that disastrous disease.

LABORERS NEEDED IN THE EAST.

New Brunswick Man in Montreal Engaged Two Hundred Immigrants.

"Farm laborers can find all the employment they want along the St. John river valley," said Mr. W. W. Hubbard, eastern agricultural agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to a Montreal Herald representative Wednesday morning.

Continuing Mr. Hubbard said that last year there was such a scarcity of farm labor in that vicinity that some of the farmers were unable to get their crops harvested.

"The Canadian West is a great country, there is no doubt of that," he said, "but I believe that a good field for farm laborers exists right in New Brunswick. The farms along the valley of the St. John river will compare favorably with any to be found in any other portion of Canada, and the farmers are willing to pay good wages to capable men."

Mr. Hubbard has engaged about 100 farm laborers from among English immigrants arriving in Montreal, and he will leave with them for St. John tonight. They will be distributed to farmers in Kings, Queens, York, Stannoy and Carleton counties and have promises of a whole summer's work at good wages.

Mr. Hubbard is also proceeding successfully with the importation of pure bred horses and cattle into New Brunswick. He has arranged for the sale of eight thoroughbred Clydesdale stallions and twenty-five Shorthorn cows in Fredericton, N. B., on May 3.

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SENATOR WARK.

Highly Honored by Political Leaders at Ottawa.

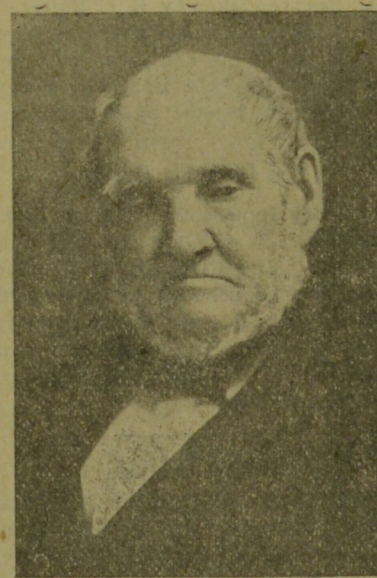
PRESENTED BY THE SENATORS WITH A PORTRAIT OF HIMSELF.

The Venerable Gentleman's Happy Reply.

AND FELICITIOUS SPEECHES BY PREMIER, OPPOSITION LEADER AND OTHERS.

Ottawa, April 29.—Canada's centenary senator and the oldest legislator in the world, Senator David Wark, who was 100 years old on February 19 last, was presented in the senate chamber yesterday afternoon with a handsome oil-painting of himself, the gift of his fellow senators. The presentation was made by Speaker Power, of the senate, in the presence of many members of the upper and lower houses, including the prime minister and the leader of the opposition, R. L. Borden, many prominent citizens of Ottawa, and not a few ladies were in attendance.

Of course Senator Wark was the cynosure of all eyes, and the senators could hardly help feeling that he was a most



remarkable figure in the political world of Canada. Though bowed down under the weight of many years the veteran senator was still sturdy in appearance, being the opposite of emaciated, his bearing was that of a man who moved carefully rather than feebly, and who conserved his physical energies rather than strained them. Clear and lucid in speech, it was evident that his mind was not dimmed by the passage of years and that he had full control of his mental faculties.

Speech Excited Admiration.

His speech excited admiration, for his sentiments and the manner of their expression were those of a man half a century younger than the guest of honor. Senator Wark was as much engaged with the events transpiring around him as was the youngest and most vigorous member of parliament present at the ceremony.

Hon. David Wark, who represents Fredericton, N. B., in the senate, is of Scotch descent and was born in Londonderry, Ireland, February 19, 1804. He came to New Brunswick when twenty years of age and was called to the senate in 1867 at Confederation, and has sat since in that body.

After the presentation speeches were made by Hon. R. W. Scott, secretary of state and leader of the government party in the senate, Sir M. B. Borden, leader of the opposition in the senate; Sir Wilfrid Laurier and R. L. Borden. The following address was read by Speaker Power:

Address to Veteran Senator.

The Honorable D. Wark.

Dear and Honored Sir:—Your colleagues in the senate of Canada have thought that your reaching while an active member of our body the great age of 100 years, should not be allowed to pass unnoticed and have resolved that the event be signalled by a painting which will enable future generations to look upon the countenance with which we are happily familiar. We may be permitted to call attention to some points which show over how wide a historical field your life's journey has extended. Born when William Pitt, worn out in the struggle with the great Napoleon was drawing near the close of his career, your memory can distinctly recall the battle in which the principles for which the

(CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE.)

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Minstrels Laid Out.

Victoria, B. C. April 28.—There were more than a dozen vacant chairs in the semi-circle and orchestra seats behind when the curtain went up, fifteen minutes late, for the performance of Al. G. Field's Minstrels at the Victoria Theatre last night, and if the time honored "How am you feelin' dis evening, Mistah John-sing?" had been asked, a grin from the merry men would have answered it. For while the audience murmured at the slight delay and the shrill whistles of the gallery split the air, ten members of the company lay unconscious in the green room, property room and office, and Doctors Duncan, Milne, Lucas, Gibbs and Hart labored to bring back lives all but extinguished by suffocation. A Chinaman's manipulation of the house heating apparatus was responsible for the close approach to a tragedy. He had fired up for the evening with gaseous coke, and, turning the wrong draughts, had sent the fumes into dressing-rooms and stage approaches with a rush. The house steps manager, entering at 8 o'clock, found unconscious forms everywhere, and the men, upon being with difficulty roused, explained that they had detected a sweetish smell and had been rendered dizzy and unconscious before they could reach the stage door. By 9 o'clock the doctors reported all the sufferers but two out of danger, these being Percy Lee and his brother, the featured European head balancers, who are still insensible, their hearts beating very feebly. The others seriously affected are Dave and Jule Walton, Toni Odell, Aldo Mignani, Frank Mench, Tommy Hyde and T. M. Kenna.

REMAINS OF A MAMMOTH.

Interesting Discovery on Quartz Creek Yukon.

Vancouver, B. C., April 27. Word has just come from Dawson that Governor F. T. Corgion of the Yukon Territory paid a visit to the spot where gold hunters recently discovered the huge remains of a mammoth on Quartz Creek. Mr. Condon found the tusks and skull intact, and with them three ribs. It is expected that the remainder of the skeleton may yet be found in the vicinity. The parts already found are undamaged, and it is hoped that when other sections of the frame are gathered up the whole may be put together. The remains lie exactly in the pay-streak of the gold-bearing gravels, two feet above red rock and forty feet below the surface of the ground. The points of the tusks extend upward and touch the upper layer of muck. It is argued that, as the skeleton lies in the gold-bearing gravels, the animal must have died ages ago, at the time the auriferous deposits were being made. It may be that the animal antedated the gold deposits, but the fact that two feet of the gold gravel is beneath the bones and much of it above would seem to indicate that both belong to one age or period.