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DAILY HERALD

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1905.

A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION.

The first yelp against Canada assuming the responsibility and cost of garrisoning Halifax and Esquimalt comes from a Tory, who with the other members of his party has professed ultra loyalty and patriotism with the lips, but who, when the test comes, shows that the veneer is easily removed.

Col. Hughes and some of his Tory colleagues in Parliament have talked many columns on the desirability and duty of Canada contributing towards Imperial defence, but the Government's effort in that direction is opposed at its very inception by the gentlemen who slew so many Boers in South Africa with his pen, and who is a leading light in the Tory party at Ottawa.

As outlined in the Herald's despatches, Monday, the Dominion Government have reached an agreement with the Imperial authorities to hereafter furnish the garrisons for Halifax and Esquimalt and to bear all the expense connected therewith, permitting the removal of the Imperial soldiers now on duty at those two stations to be removed to other parts of the Empire, and if that is not a valuable contribution to Imperial as well as home defence, what under the sun is it? The expense of the enterprise is estimated at \$2,000,000 annually, but Canada will cheerfully foot the bill.

The news of the agreement seems to have reached the press rather ahead of the time anticipated by the Minister of Militia, but the cat was out of the bag and Sir Frederick Borden in Parliament confirmed what has already been published in the Herald.

The offer of garrisoning Halifax and Esquimalt was made to the Imperial government by the Minister of Militia a year ago, and Earl Grey is credited with interesting himself in bringing the matter to a head. Those who regard the move as merely an effort on the part of Canada to provide for her own defence, take a very narrow view of the question. Halifax and Esquimalt are two very important strategic points from the Imperial view, and their defence is as much in the interests of the whole Empire, as the defence of Gibraltar, Malta or the passes leading to India.

Canada, since the Liberal government came into power at least, has never refused to assume her full share of the burden of Imperial defence, and the men and money she contributed to the struggle in South Africa was an evidence of the Imperial spirit. What Sir Wilfrid and his government have declined to do, however, was to make a cash contribution to the funds of the war office, or to organize in Canada a system of militarism as they have it in Europe, and the country stood by him in that position.

The Government very naturally took the ground with respect to a cash contribution as proposed by unthinking Tories, that Canada did not see the wisdom of donating a large sum of money without any authority as to its expenditure. Had Canada a direct voice in the war council of the Empire the case would have been different, but we have so well learned the principles of responsible government in this country that we decidedly object to the levying of a tax for military or other purposes without having a hand in its expenditure. Under the plan proposed by the Minister of Militia with respect to Halifax and Esquimalt, the expenditure for sustaining these garrisons will be directly in the control of the federal authorities at Ottawa. We pay our money and we know what we are to get.

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION.

An article dated from Ottawa, published in the Herald today on corruption in Canadian elections will be read with some interest, although the correspondent seems to have overlooked New Brunswick.

Perhaps the writer did not have

an opportunity to interview any of our New Brunswick M. P's. or he might have gained a notion of how much cash it takes to run an election in this province. If he had seen Mr. O. S. Crockett for instance and got some details from him as to the cost of the Tory campaign in this constituency last November, the news would have been interesting, or if Mr. Crockett declined to talk, perhaps a certain Montreal capitalist would have furnished the information.

From the absence of comments on New Brunswick elections in the Ottawa correspondent's letter, however, it must not be concluded that the constituencies of this province are not corrupt. We do not pride ourselves on the fact, but it is true nevertheless, that in point of corruptibility some New Brunswick constituencies can hold up their heads with Ontario's best, and can double discount the most of them. We can recall an election in a New Brunswick constituency not many years ago that cost both parties at least \$15,000 each, perhaps more, and it was only a local contest at that. The fact is that in the majority of the constituencies in this province a candidate must be either able on his own behalf to put up a large sum of money, or he must be assured that the party machine will be able to produce the necessary cash before he can be reasonably expected to take the field. The legitimate expenses of an election are large, but they are only a flea bite to what is expected for disbursement at the polls, in the actual purchase of the electors, a large proportion of whom claim and expect a specific amount for their votes. Some who are ashamed to admit bribe taking, smother their consciences with the pretence that they are only being paid for their time or their pull, but a very large number take money for their votes as unblushingly as they would the cash for their potatoes or their beef in the market.

This is a very serious condition of affairs, and one which should be stamped out. It is a national disgrace, and the sooner the politicians shut up their pocket books and absolutely refuse to be bled by the bribe takers, the nearer will be the approach of a reformation in the electors who set no value on their right to exercise their franchise except what it will bring in hard cash on election day.

A FOOLISH THREAT.

Moncton's new city council appears to be a particularly lively body, and it also claims some dignity which so far however is not apparent from its discussions.

One of the council's meetings was called a "Matinee" by the reporter, of the Transcript, and the mayor objected to such a term, and threatened that if the proceedings were not properly reported, the Transcript's representative would not be permitted to attend.

This threat is naturally resented by Mr. Hawke, the editor of the Transcript, who in an article in which he vigorously pays his respect to the mayor, dares that official to exclude the Transcript's reporter from the council meetings.

It would appear from this instance that His Worship must think he is at the head of a sort of Star chamber. His threat to exclude any representative of the press is a piece of bluff: he has no such authority, and if he does not know it, he should inform himself. The time has long since passed in this country when the press can be forced into silence with respect to criticism of public bodies, so long as that criticism is within respectable lines. There is of course no license for the press to do and say what it pleases, but there is remarkable freedom which is considered necessary for the protection of the public.

From what the Herald has seen of the reports of the Moncton coun-

cil meetings recently, about the best punishment the newspapers could inflict on that distinguished body would be to publish a verbatim report of its meetings, especially of the rather far-fetched dialogues which occur between the mayor and some of the aldermen.

ONLY A BLUFF.

The Herald's advices from Woodstock are that Mr. Simms, who it is alleged was anxious to oppose the re-election of Hon. W. P. Jones in Carleton, did not make a serious effort to get his nomination papers filed in time, and that no difficulty was put in the way of his being nominated, by the sheriff or anybody else. It is known that whatever steps Mr. Simms took towards opposing Mr. Jones were without the countenance or support of the opposition party in Carleton, and that had he gone to the polls he would probably have lost his deposit.

The effort of the Sun to elevate Mr. Simms' failure to be nominated in time, into a grave political scandal will be laughed at in Woodstock, and will not be seriously regarded elsewhere.

Sheriff Hayward is a thoroughly reliable, honorable and impartial official, and if Mr. Simms or anybody else had presented nomination papers within the time prescribed by the law, they would have been received and the nominee given an opportunity of measuring his strength with the popular Solicitor General.

PREFERRED TO WAIT.

Some Westville People Won't Have Any Other Flour Than "Royal Household."

The Westville Free Lance recently obtained the following interview with George E. Munroe, one of the leading merchants of Pictou county. It will be read with interest by all who have used and are using "Royal Household" Flour.

"Yes, we handle 'Royal Household' Flour; we sell a great deal of it," was the reply given our reporter when he called at the store of Mr. George E. Munroe. "I am sorry to say that for a few days we were completely sold out of stock, but a carload now coming in will keep us going a little while unless the demand increases, which it may do, judging from the reports we hear of 'Royal Household's' popularity in all parts of Canada."

"I understand," said Mr. Munroe that 'Royal Household' is now the popular flour, as far west as Victoria, British Columbia and that the millers who make it have great difficulty in keeping up with their orders. I have made no effort to obtain the opinion of Westville people who have bought the flour, but this I can say, that no complaints have been made, which is a very good sign that the flour gives satisfaction. During the few days that we were out of stock several people came to us anxious to get a barrel of 'Royal Household,' and when asked if they would have a substitute the reply invariably was that they would wait for the new carload then on the way from the mills. Personally, I believe that 'Royal Household' is a very fine flour, probably the finest that has been made in Canada, and I have no hesitation in selling it at once. You are at liberty to make this statement in your paper, in fact I would consider it fair to have you do so."

W. HARRY STEEVES

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Although other Seed Dealers have begged W. Atlee Burpee & Co., to sell their Seeds direct, they have positively declined, and I am sole agent in Fredericton for the sale of these Seeds, and other dealers have to buy them through outside dealers at an advance price.

My first consignment for season 1905 now in store. Catalogues now ready for my customers.

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Everybody Should Look Ahead.

And be prepared to take advantage of our next week's sale, which will be on certain lines of

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Upholstered Sofas, Upholstered Rookers, Upholstered Arm Chairs, Upholstered Morris Chairs, Upholstered Parlor Chairs, Cane Seat Chairs and Rookers. Wood Seat Chairs and Rookers. Couches.

These will be marked away down

LEMONT & SONS.

Sale of Glassware going on this week.