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DAILY HERALD

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1905

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT.

It is to the credit of Mr. Hazen and his opposition colleagues in the legislature that they are giving their unqualified support to Premier Tweedie's resolution urging the federal authorities to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent any further decrease in the representation of New Brunswick in the House of Commons and the attitude of the opposition on the question is conclusive evidence that the government in pushing the matter have followed a course in the best interests of this province.

Hitherto Mr. Hazen has criticized the expenditure the government found it necessary to incur in urging their view of the case in the supreme court at Ottawa, and before the judicial committee of the council, but if the opposition leader's address on the resolution now before the legislature is a frank statement of the feelings of himself and his supporters, and we have no reason to doubt that it is, in the future it will be reasonable to expect that he will make no further effort to prejudice the government for the expenditure they have made to secure for this province its rights.

Mr. Hazen took occasion to praise the attorney general very highly for the able manner in which he had presented the representation case to the legislature, and the opposition leader did overstate the matter in the least. To secure such a complete mastery of the question must have taxed the time and ability of Dr. Pugsley, and the compliment paid him by such a strong political opponent as Mr. Hazen is certainly some compensation.

The government has in season and of season continually pressed for a satisfactory settlement of the question, as they have persistently urged a readjustment of the federal subsidies, and a division of the Halifax Fishery Award, and it is to be hoped on these latter questions Mr. Hazen and his friends will discover that they can better serve the interests of New Brunswick by supporting the government's efforts than in making carping criticisms of the amount of money necessarily expended in urging the government's views on the Ottawa authorities.

For many years the opposition in the legislature made light of the government's efforts to secure payment of the eastern extension railway claim, but the government's persistence was at last rewarded and the province was enriched to the extent of \$275,000. Premier Tweedie and Dr. Pugsley had a hand in sending a satisfactory adjustment of that claim and there is reason to believe that in the matters which the government is now so persistently urging at Ottawa a like satisfactory result will be reached.

MR. GIBSON'S EFFORTS.

While the Board of Trade is entitled to credit for urging the necessity of an increase in the clerical staff of the Fredericton Post Office, it is doubtful if that matter would have reached its present promising condition, had not Mr. Alexander Gibson, ex-M. P., not given his hearty support to the proposition, and brought all the influence he could exert on the Ottawa authorities to the desired end. For two years Mr. Gibson has been urging the authorities to act, and at last his efforts are likely to bear fruit.

Through Mr. Gibson's representations to the Postmaster General, the Chief Superintendent of post offices in Fredericton today making investigation into the case, and Mr. Gibson met him and further urged his views.

It is claimed that for the prompt despatch of the business of the post office at least two more clerks are required, besides the one necessary to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Phair's death, and it is to be hoped that the Postmaster General will see to it that the enlargement of the staff is promptly made. Fredericton has expanded in the past decade, its business going through the post office is greatly increased, yet the staff is no larger than it was ten and even fifteen years ago. There is no reason in the world why the post office should not be fully manned for any emergency, as there is no excuse for the department to expect of its employees more work than they are physically able to accomplish.

The gentleman who so efficiently

represented this constituency in parliament during the past term, and in whom the patronage remains the business men of the city as represented by the Board of Trade, the pulpit and the press, have all exerted their efforts to bring about the desired change, and the government should understand that Fredericton is thoroughly interested in securing what is asked, and will not let up until the very reasonable request has been granted.

THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley made an important statement in the legislature yesterday respecting the probable route of the G. T. P. through this province, declaring his belief that the new road will reach St. John over the lines of the N. B. Railway Company from Fredericton to Norton, and intimating that legislation may be asked to this end. Everybody in this community will hope that the attorney general's feeling of confidence will be realized.

The time is approaching when a choice of routes for the G. T. P. through New Brunswick will have to be made. The surveys which have been prosecuted with such vigor since last October are rapidly nearing completion, and every possible influence should be brought to bear on the authorities to secure the route of the road down the valley of the St. John river, the easy and natural route for a transcontinental line desiring to reach the port of St. John.

No interest demands the routing of the line through the New Brunswick wilderness with its difficult grades and unsettled areas.

It will be observed from Col. Loggie's valuable paper on the New Brunswick Forests, read at the Forestry Convention at Quebec, that much of the interior of this province is composed of practically untillable soil and the construction of the road through that wilderness would be a mistake to which no government should commit itself.

It is expected that on Monday Sir Wilfrid Laurier will make a statement in parliament respecting the autonomy bill, and that he will announce modifications to the educational clauses that will be satisfactory to western members.

COME ON OUT TO CANADA.

Lord Strathcona's Advice to Public Schoolboys.

London, March 17.—An article appeared in The Morning Standard as to the careers in the colonies of public school boys. In regard to Canada Lord Strathcona gives his views, urging young men to go to the northwest, where they should work for two years on a farm, then take up a government grant. If the boy has pluck and perseverance, combined with health and strength, if he does not make a fortune, he is certain to acquire a competence. Lord Strathcona urges young men to start by practising a system of self-denial.

Forty-nine of two hundred and twenty destitute families who will be despatched to Canada by The Daily Telegraph fund, were entertained preparatory to their departure for the Dominion. One party has already arrived in Canada, and others will be sent weekly. Prominent speakers addressed the emigrants, urging them to be a credit to the empire.

Traffic in Human Skin.

The skin grafting experiments which have been so successful of recent years have led to a new form of livelihood, which is fairly remunerative. Several of the London hospitals have on their books the names and addresses of many men and women who have undertaken to sell portions of their cuticle whenever the necessity arises, and it is said that quite a regular traffic is now being done in the buying and selling of human skin. The persons who are willing to sacrifice their flesh for money are by no means confined to the poor and destitute class.—London Mail.

The Postal Union.

The first step toward the formation of the postal union, which has had such wide results, came from Germany in the shape of a proposal for an international postal congress. This met at Bern in 1873, when twenty-two countries joined the union, including the whole of Europe. A second congress met in Paris in 1878, when ten other countries came in, and the official title, "International Postal Union," was definitely fixed. Its sphere was further enlarged at congresses at Lisbon in 1885 and at Vienna in 1891.

The Attraction.

Prim Mother—My son, I am afraid you are going to make a mistake in marrying Miss Easyways. Both she and her mother are fearfully lax housekeepers. Son—I know it, mother; that's what caught me. It's so comfortable over there, you know. I can sit down anywhere in the parlor without being told that I'm mudding things up!—Detroit Free Press.

An Unusual Seat.

"Pa," said Tommy, opening the paper, "who sits on the seat of war?" "No one," responded papa, "because the seat of war generally has a tack in it."

POET OF THE HABITANT.

Ideal Phases of French-Canadian Peasant Life—Dr. Drummond Recently Delivered at a Toronto University Audience.

Dr. Drummond of Montreal, the poet of the habitant, has what would be called in the theatrical world a fine stage presence, and the average student of human nature does not require to be told that he is an actor born, not made. His declamatory powers have a refreshing naturalness, and his almost every word is fitted with a gesticulation which conveys well high as much meaning as his eloquent articulation itself, the whole leaving no doubt in the minds of the audience exactly what he intends to convey. What the stage may have lost is of no account when the gain to the medical profession and the adornment of the world of literature are taken into consideration. His eyes can sparkle with humor or look sad with pathos with equal facility, whilst his writings have a literary charm and fascination which have made his name famous throughout a large proportion of the civilized world. What Charles Dickens was in his depiction of the life and character of his time, particularly in the humbler strata of the people, or what Bret Harte did in the delineation of the heathen Chinese, so to-day is Dr. Drummond, in his remarkable poetic portrayals of the life of the Habitant, which, to the uninitiated, may be explained as life among our neighbors, the French-Canadian peasantry, whose interesting characteristics it is not necessary to extol here.

A Fine Foundation.

The casual observer would not think for a moment, on either reading his poems or hearing his recitals, of paying Dr. Drummond the compliment of being an Irishman, but, as a matter of fact, it was on Erin's fair isle that he first opened his eyes and, literally speaking, they have been very much open ever since. If anything pleasantly betrays his nationality it is the keen Hibernian wit which is such a prominent factor, and sparkles so brilliantly in so many of his poetic works. Put then his Irish humor, his true sportive instinct—sports of the Habitant being largely dealt with by him—and his keen observance of the life and habits of our neighbors, and you have the foundation on which is based the works which can fairly be said, not only to have immortalized himself, but those with whom he has dealt.

Scaring the Devil.

Dr. Drummond opened his recent recital at Toronto University of a fine new poem which he humorously said would no doubt be interesting inasmuch as it showed how the devil was whacked by one of the Habitants, the means to the end being the smoking out of his Satanic majesty by the free use of Canadian tobacco. It is an exquisite legendary poem which bids fair to rank high in the Doctor's notable collection. What may be called "The pig sticking poem" throws some excellent side lights on French-Canadian peasant life. The champion pig sticker, who is adored for his prowess by the whole district, has a charming daughter Rosine, who has captivated the affections of quite a number of young men, and it becomes a difficult question as to who shall claim her. Eventually the point is to be decided if any of them can wrest the championship from the old man. With due regard for effect one of the young men succeeds and claims Rosine, but the old Habitant derives consolation from the fact that the championship still remains in the family. The story of the easy catching of "sweet barbotte" is told in fine language, and with beauty of expression, and having in mind the powerful fecundity of French-Canadians Dr. Drummond's poem, which contrasts them with the American woman whose husband cannot find a seat in the train owing to her profusion, not of children, but of so-called society novels, was a source of great delight to the audience.

The Masterpiece.

The physical ailments of an old Habitant, who at one time was noted for his great strength, but is now jeered at by the boys, and who would not mind paying so much as two or three dollars to a doctor to regain his powers, are admirably depicted; and who can forget "May Be," or "Just take your chance and try your luck"? "Johnny Courteau," universally recognized as the Doctor's masterpiece, was given by special request. Johnny was once "one of the boys," but the way he tamed down after his marriage was a marvel to them. They had reckoned without his good, strong-willed wife, who so tamed him down that in due course he would almost dose off himself in his efforts to rock the baby to sleep. Dr. Drummond's imitation of Johnny's lullaby was a clever musical effort, and the piece generally aroused great enthusiasm. Another great hit was the visit of the Chambly girl to Montreal to hear Madame Albani, who is naturally something of a goddess to the Habitant. The great singer appears on the stage with a mere man to sing, of course, a duet, an item in the musical world which is unknown in peasant life. The Chambly girl is shocked when the man is so rude as to start singing first, but she is delighted when Madame Albani begins, soon catches him up, and finishes just as quick as he did! There is some pathos admirably blended in the poem, and the



Doctor's rendition was one of the best of his many fine efforts. De Bell St. Michel was a grand closing item, and given with a dramatic effect largely reminiscent of Sir Henry Irving in The Bells. An old Habitant is in the United States, but the sound of the old bell haunts him, and finally he resolves to go and live and die within the reach of the original strains of his childhood days.

The Implacable Critic.

"What made Gumbleton so huffy at the complimentary banquet tendered him by the members of his profession?"

"Did you hear of it? He was displeased at a remark made by one of the speakers."

"What was the remark?"

"Why, the speaker said that Gumbleton was one of the few men in his profession who never made a mistake."

"Why, I should have thought Gumbleton would have liked that."

"He'd have liked it well enough if his wife hadn't been sitting in the gallery."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Candlefish of Puget Sound.

Very queer fish are caught in the waters of Puget sound. One kind is called the candlefish. It is dried and packed in boxes like candles. We are told the fishermen use them to light their homes and that at one time all the boats on the sound used them instead of sperm oil lamps. By putting the heads of the fish downward in a candlestick and lighting the tail, which, in conjunction with the backbone, acts as a wick, it burns like a candle. They eat this fish, and, when cooking, it is so fat it fries itself.

The great question is not so much what money you have in your pocket as what you will buy with it.

Command great fields, but cultivate small ones.—Virgil.

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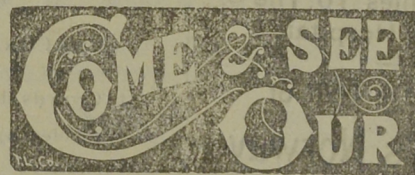
1905 BURPEE'S SEEDS 1905

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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