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DAILY HERALD

TUESDAY, MARCH 2., 1905

THE SCHOOL COMPROMISE.

If it developes that the proposed amendments to the educational clauses of the Northwest autonomy bill are satisfactory to the west and acceptable to those who desire a friendly settlement of the matter without the country being thrown into a frenzy of sectarian agitation, the resignation of Mr. Sifton and the protests of the other Liberal supporters of the government will not have been in vain.

As the Herald understands it, the bill as amended practically leaves educational matters in the new provinces as they have been for the past thirty years without complaint from anybody. and thus should be satisfactory to all classes of the Canadian people. It would perhaps meet some objections if the new provinces were left free to deal with the educational matters as they thought best, but the rule was not applied to Ontario or Quebec where the respective Roman Catholic and Protestant minorities all guaranteed separate schools by the act of confederation.

The Northwest Territories entered the confederation with a similiar guarantee and, as we have said,there have been no complaints from the people residing there against the educational system in force in that country. Why then should it be uprooted now , or why should there be any effort to make it more drastic and binding with respect to public allowance to separate schools ?

The extremists of both parties are represented in these two queries,and probably the middle course which the amendments apparently outlines, should be generally acceptable to the country, and allay whatever agitation aroused during the past few tion has been aroused during the past few weeks.

Of course the government—no Liberal government could expect to satisfy Dr. Sproule and the men who march under his banner. They are Tories—in Ontario especially and in some constituencies outside of that province, and nothing short of the entire suppression of certain forms of religion would entirely suit their taste. Men of their stamp delight to secure an opportunity for agitation, for arousing sectarian prejudice, and many of them owe their public prominence to the vigor with which they wave the racial and religious flag. Happily, however, the country cannot be stampeded by this class of men, no more than it can be controlled bt the hierarchy of another class.

There are independent thinking men in Canada—men who sincerely believe that this country composed of all races and religions, can be peacefully and successfully governed by mutual compromise, and this class is sufficiently numerous to hold the balance between the unthinking, irresponsible zealots of both extremes. This spirit of compromise, of respect for religious convictions, is nowhere in better evidence than in New Brunswick, where thirty years ago all friction on the public school question as administered in this province was removed by a wise arrangement which did not demand the surrender of any immortant principle, yet happily calmed an agitation which threatened most serious results, and actually resulted in bloodshed in a district where for the moment reason was subordinated to passion. This acrimonious feeling happily, we say, passed out of existence, and any attempt to fan the old flame into life since the settlement has resulted disastrously to the agitators concerned in it.

HIS EFFECTIVE WORK.

Mr. Gibson, ex-M. P., made the observation Saturday at the conference between the Board of Trade, himself and the chief superintendent of post offices, that while he had been doing all he could to remedy certain alleged grievances in the Fredericton post office, he had no newspaper in the family to blow his horn and tell what a great fellow he really is.

In this respect Mr. Gibson is certainly at a disadvantage, yet most people are quite well aware that no more faithful or energetic representative than he ever sat for this constituency in parliament. The fact that he was defeated when offering for re-election, by some catch cries which served their purpose, but will speedily react on those who used them, is no reflection on Mr. Gibson, or evidence that he did not conscientiously discharge his duties at Ottawa.

And it may be mentioned that Mr. Gibson still controls the federal patronage in this constituency. that he is consulted in all matters relating to York's interests under the purview of the federal authorities, and by his former constituents who desire to catch the ear of the ministers. Cheap talk in parliament while useful for exploiting oneself as a great man and affording admiring relatives an opportdnity to bask in reflected glory, will never duplicate the good work Mr. Gibson did for York, while a member of parliament, and which he is able to continue as holding the patronage of this constituency.

MADE A GOOD START.

Mr. Maxwell, the new opposition member fot St. John city, was able in his first speech in the legislature to give a government proposition his hearty and unqualified support. and in his very excellent address not only commended the stand the government had taken in the representation question, but declared the resolution to which he was speaking, one of the most important moved in the House for many years.

The testimony which Mr. Maxwell, in common with his leader, bears to the government's watchfulness in the interests of the province in this matter, is sufficient answer to some portions of the opposition press which have been decrying the administration for expending money in chasing an alleged myth. A positive danger threatens this province if the present conditions with respect to the federal authority to decrease our representation in the House of Commons are continued, and the opposition is doing the country a real service in heartily joining hands with the government to take all possible steps to prevent so grave an injustice.

It may be added that Mr. Maxwell will discover before he is long in the legislature that in all matters the government is endeavoring to give New Brunswick an honest and progressive administration of public affairs, and that they are entitled to the support of all who are not blinded by party prejudice and anxious to first reap a party advantage rather than to forward the interests of the country.

Although Mr. Maxwell does not subscribe to the same political belief as the Herald, this journal congratulates him on the attitude, manner and matter of his maiden speech in the legislature, and recalls with pride that he is a former Frederictonian, who has won distinction in his adopted city in his business and social capacities, and has been thought worthy to represent that constituency in the House of Assembly.

MISREPRESENTED.

Hon. Geo. F. Hill has reason for a decided grievance against some penny-a-liner who sends Fredericton despatches to the Montreal Herald. The member for Charlotte is represented as advocating the annexation of this province to the United States, in a speech which he delivered in the Legislature Friday on the representation question. Nothing was further from the hon. gentleman's thoughts. On the contrary he distinctly declared his opposition to annexation as a perusal of his speech published in yesterday's Herald will prove.

The scribe who sent the lying telegram to the Montreal Herald should be given a severe lesson for so misrepresenting a loyal public man like Mr. Hill, and if he were brought to the bar of the House, and sentenced to a few days snow shovelling in the streets, or deprived of his freedom for a few hours, the punishment would fit the deed.

Mr. O. S. Crocket, M. P., came rushing down from Ottawa after the chief superintendent of post offices, but does not seem to have been called to the conference which that gentleman had with the Board of Trade with respect to proposed changes in the Fredericton post office. Mr. Gibson, however was present urging the views of the business men on the superintendent, although the observatipns he made are suppressed by Mr.O. S. Crocket's newspaper organ.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS.

Repartee Used As a Weapon Offensive and Defensive.

"That is the retort courteous," said the fool in the forest, when he qualified the quip and crank to the lie direct. The man who can accomplish the retort courteous gives splendidly the lie direct to many an awkward accusation, and, if his wit be bitter, so much the more deadly his point.

In the time of Charles II. of England, in an age of wits, the grand master of the art of retort was the crippled first Earl of Shaftesbury. "Shaftesbury," said the King to him one day, "I believe that thou art the wickedest dog in all my dominions." "Of a subject, sire, I believe I am," was the reply. While speaking against the test bill in the House of Lords, the Earl overheard an indolent churchman say, "I wonder when he will have done preaching." The orator whispered loud enough to be heard by all, "When I am made a bishop, my lord."

Dr. Garth, a witty physician of the Court of Queen Anne, had prescribed a nauseous dose for the great warrior, the Duke of Marlborough. When the Duke objected to following the directions the sharp-tongued Duchess Sarah broke in by saying, "I'll be hanged if it does not cure you." "There, my lord," interposed Garth, "you had better swallow it; you will gain either way."

Repartee has ever flashed brilliantly from the bench. Lord Mansfield, the famous English judge of the second half of the eighteenth century, listened to an argument of the insolently proud Sir Fletcher Norton upon a case involving certain manorial rights. "My lord," said Norton, "I can instance the point in person. Now, I have myself two little manors." "We are well aware of that," said the judge, smiling kindly.

"Do you see anything ridiculous in my wig?" said a judge to the famous Irish barrister, John Curran. "Nothing but the head," flew back the retort.

Although the law seems to be especially conducive to skill in fencing with words, the Church has supplied a large quota of men who delighted in the give-and-take of verbal warfare. The venerable Dr. Thomas Fuller, author of "The Worthies of England," however, met his match once when he propounded the following question to a certain Dr. Sparrowhawk: "Pray, what is the difference between a sparrowhawk and an owl?" "Why," came the response, "there is a great difference. An owl is fuller in the head, fuller in the body, and fuller all over."

The eloquent Baptist divine, Robert Hall, had a caustic wit. A flippant young woman having broken to his reveries in allusion to his fiancee, Miss Steel, by saying, "Ah, sir, if we had but polished steel here, we might secure some of your attention; but"— "Madam," he replied, "make yourself quite easy; if you are not polished steel, you are at least polished brass."

"What are you going to do in life?" asked Cardinal Manning of a pert undergraduate at Oxford. "Oh, I'm going to take holy orders," was the airy response. "Take care you get them, my son," came from the prelate.

Horne Tooke is credited with this daring retort to George III., who had asked him whether he played cards: "Your Majesty, I cannot tell a king from a knave."

Economy.

Friend — If your washerwoman charges by the piece, it must be rather expensive. Young Housekeeper—Oh, no. She loses so many things that her bills are never high.—New York Weekly.

Sign of the Gambler.

When you see a man excessively shined up, new overcoat, new hat, trousers painfully creased, shoes that reflect images of the surroundings; when you see him enter a car, throw the tail of his coat up his back before dropping into a seat, stretch out his legs, jerk up his trousers and begin to clean his nails, it is safe to bet $1,000, he is a successful gambler.

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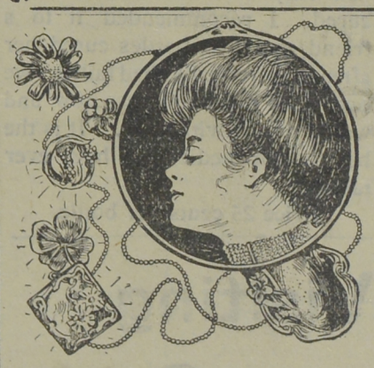

We have just received a large assortment of the following goods for the Spring trade:

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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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