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W. K. C. PARLEE, Manager.

L. C. MACNUTT, Editor.

DAILY HERALD

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1907.

MR. FOSTER OBNOXIOUS.

The Toronto News, from which our Tory contemporaries are fond of quoting, when that independent newspaper says anything derogatory to Liberals, in a recent issue reviewed the relations of Mr. Foster to the Western land deals, and the Foresters, and Mr. Borden's relations to Mr. Foster.

The News speaks of "Mr. Foster's impropriety," and as being "mixed up in financial manipulation which is obnoxious to public sentiment," and of "Mr. Borden's grave error of unwise loyalty to the ex-minister of finance."

These are quotations from the News, and are not the words of the Herald, and they will give Mr. Foster an idea of what the public think of his land deals.

Proceeding to consideration of Mr. Foster's case, the News says it does not benefit Mr. Foster that he was able to convince the Insurance Commission of several instances of unfairness, nor that he was able to submit a defence which is satisfactory on several points. He is in the position of a student who must make one hundred per cent. or be plucked. It does him little good, if one charge is proved, to disprove five others. The broad fact seems to be that while he kept within the four corners of the law, the question as to the moral propriety of evading trust conditions must receive an unfavorable answer.

"One incident contains the kernel of the whole situation. He formed one of a syndicate of four which borrowed 1.0. F. trust funds to engage in land speculation. There seems no doubt that the actual loan was improper. Mr. Foster was the only member of the syndicate who was not a Forester; he took the ground, when defending himself, that whether it was right or wrong to lend the money, he was not to be blamed for borrowing it. This ignores the fact that his partners in the syndicate were doing a very doubtful thing, and that he should not have associated himself so questionably a transaction."

"It comes down to a question of his having mixed himself up in that unwholesome sort of financial manipulation which is so prevalent now, and which is becoming exceedingly obnoxious to the general public sentiment. The standard of defence for him is that nineteen business men out of twenty do precisely the same sort of things. Perhaps so; but Mr. Foster, in his position, should have been the twentieth."

"These considerations primarily affect Mr. Foster's appeal to the country. It is melancholy to be obliged to add that in the House he has passed his prime. On one occasion, his principal speech on the Insurance Commission, he was really good, concise and cogent. In all other important speeches he was intolerably wordy. He retains to an unhappy extent his gift of phrase; one effect is that when he has said a thing once he must needs repeat it in eight or ten other ways; another is that he unquestionably can irritate his opponents. They do not, however, seem particularly to fear him. He is the whip, not the sword of the Conservative party. And a whip is no weapon for a serious fight."

This is pretty strong language coming from an independent newspaper, and a more forcible and cogent arraignment of Mr. Foster has seldom appeared in a Liberal newspaper. It must greatly pain Mr. Foster after all his labored explanations on the land deals, to be told by an independent authority that his conduct is obnoxious to the public, that he has passed his prime as a political force in Canada, and that the Liberals do not fear him.

What a fall for a once popular hero, a man who assumed the position of general censor of political morals, and who aspired to the premiership of Canada.

THE NEW THEOLOGY.

The new theology evolved by Rev. R. J. Campbell, an old country minister, which has excited a great deal of comment, criticism and condemnation in the religious world,

came in for rough handling at the hands of Rev. J. D. Freeman, of Toronto, formerly pastor of the Baptist Church in Fredericton.

Speaking at the McMaster University, last week, Mr. Freeman said the new theology was based on the doctrine of Divine imminence, and was rationalistic and liberal.

Mr. Campbell claimed, said Mr. Freeman, that he did not owe a scintilla of his doctrine to any man being, asserting that it was evolved out of his own consciousness, but there was not a suggestion of anything new in it. There was not a single position in the book which had not been stated more clearly and more forcibly by somebody else. Mr. Campbell's God was a vague and shadowy abstraction, and what was called his idealistic monism was nothing more or less than pantheism. The view of God and sin presented was simply that of Christian Science with the healing left out. There were streaks of truth in the book, but the truth was pretty lean and the error pretty fat.

Mr. Freeman thought the author wanted to take a good long rest somewhere or else to get more closely in touch with human life. The new theology might appeal to certain groups of aesthetic people who wanted a little religion in their philosophy, or religion touched with cultured classicism, but it would never do for the poor fellow who knew that he had sinned.

DROPPED INTO A HOLE.

Mr. Hazen's newspaper organ in this city seems to be rather overdoing things in its efforts to represent the public roads in bad condition because of the new highway act and alleged government neglect, and it dropped into a bad hole in its arraignment of the road authorities with respect to the condition of the highway through St. Mary's and Gibson to the Marysville line.

As a matter of fact this road is not under government supervision, but under a special act, and is supposed to be kept in repair by the residents of those villages, who have taken it upon themselves to tax those communities for roads.

The government has no more to do with the highway in question than it has with keeping up the streets of Fredericton or any other town or city in the province, but the writer in Mr. Hazen's organ did not know that fact, or knowing it, deliberately ignored it to have excuse for attacking the government.

However, it is about as near as Mr. Hazen's organ ever gets to the truth when dealing with political opponents, but it evidently believes that a falsehood well started may outrun the truth and do the work for which it was intended.

WRETCHED STREETS.

The principal streets of Fredericton are in a wretched condition, the result of the sewer trenching of last season, and should be repaired at the earliest possible moment.

Some of them are almost impassable, or at least are so rough that they are dangerous, especially after dark.

Under the contract with the McManus company, who did the trenching, the company are bound to restore the streets to the good condition they were in before trenching was commenced, and a certain sum was reserved by the city from the company to assure the performance of repair work, which should be pushed to a conclusion as soon as possible.

CURRENT COMMENT.

It is not a lofty or Christian like mission in politicians or newspapers to seek the ruin of their opponents' personal reputations.

Things are going to be slightly mixed up in the Boston mayoralty election. Both the candidates bear the name of John F. Fitzgerald, and it is feared that the electors will get confused in marking their ballots.

The Halifax people want the governor-general to have a summer residence in that city, and are putting forward a proposition that Admiralty House, out of use, should be prepared and reserved for the occupancy of His Excellency and his family during the summer months.

According to current report, New Brunswick will have a new premier and probably a new attorney general next week. It is understood that Dr. Pugsley will resign those positions when the government meets here towards the close of the month, and it is settled that Hon. C. W. Robinson, will be the next premier. On whose shoulders will the attorney generalship fall?

Bishop Richardson's friends will wish him a pleasant trip to Winnipeg and a safe return. He goes to the prairie city to take part in the convention of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and will doubtless much enjoy the re-union with his old friends in that city. His Lordship has many tender ties with Winnipeg. It was there he was educated, had his first

pastoral charge and married his much esteemed wife.

Mr. Borden has been in caucus with a number of his Tory lieutenants at Montreal, trying to lay out a plan of campaign against the government in the country, but the gathering seems to have been a very unsatisfactory one, the various factions failing to reach an agreement. The New Brunswick delegates included Mr. J. D. Hazen, M. P. P., and Mr. Harry Thorne of St. John, and their report of political conditions in that city must have been disheartening to the Tory leader. Doubtless they told him to prepare himself for a sweeping Liberal victory in St. John in the coming bye election.

FOR THE GRAND BAZAAR.

Everything seems to indicate that the Grand Bazaar and Dance, which is to be held in the Arctic rink, on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, will be the greatest affair of its kind ever put on in this city. Arrangements have been made with Mr. Hoben, of the F. C. R., to have the Marysville trains on both evenings held over to 11 o'clock, as large crowds are expected from the milling town. The city orchestra, who are to take a prominent part in the entertainment, have just received from Boston, a brand new first class set of traps, which are to be used for the first time on this occasion. Mr. Jas. S. Neill, the popular hardware merchant, has donated a very fancy hammock of the first grade as a prize to the most popular officer of the 71st Regiment, and Messrs. Colwell & Jennings, the up town large furniture dealers, have donated a fancy parlour lamp to be given away to Fredericton's most popular alderman, Mr. H. S. Campbell. Fredericton's generous shoeman, has donated a very fine silk lined pair of ladies' canvas shoes to be given away to the most popular lady roller skater. These articles are on exhibit in the windows of the firms donating them, and are much admired. There will do doubt be great competition as to who will be the lucky ones when the ballots are being cast at the rink this week.

Mr. F. W. McElhinney of Truro, N. S., representing the big wholesale provision firm of F. E. Williams & Co., St. John, is among the guests at the Barker.

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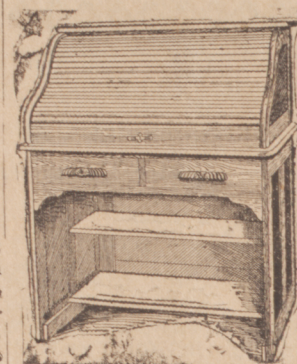
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