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Manager.
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Editor.

DAILY HERALD

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1908.

WAKE UP TOO LATE.

Mr. Ossie Crockett seems to have turned up too late to assist the Fredericton people in securing an audience with the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, with a view to claiming the federal exhibition grant of \$50,000 for next year's big show in this city.

Long before Mr. Crockett despatched his correspondence to the mayor and others in this city, Mr. Whitehead was busy in the matter, caught the ear of the Ottawa authorities, and arranged for the hearing before Hon. Mr. Fisher.

If Mr. Crockett had been as diligent in looking after the business of his constituents as he is in conducting his personal puffery bureau in the local graft organ he might have been of some service in the work which Mr. Whitehead so promptly accomplished.

The civic and agricultural society delegations from this city will be heard by Mr. Fisher at Ottawa on Tuesday next as a result of Mr. Whitehead's arrangements, in which Mr. Crockett had not the slightest participation, and of which he had no knowledge until the plan was fully completed.

It was like Mr. Crockett's failure to put in an appearance at the board of trade's conference with Hon. Mr. Graham, Minister of Railways, here last autumn, and in both instances he showed great indifference to his constituents' interests.

FOWLER ON THE RAMPAGE.

Mr. George W. Fowler, who with Mr. Foster enjoys the distinction of having made handsome take-offs by land speculation with Foresters' funds, appears to have again cut loose in Parliament, making a malicious personal attack on Hon. Dr. Pugsley who first introduced the member for Kings-Albert into the political arena.

Mr. Fowler's attack on the Minister of Public Works was but a rehearsal of the calumnies that his enemies have repeated so many times since Dr. Pugsley left the Conservative party, and more particularly since he became a member of the Laurier government, and the minister quite properly treated the ravings of the land speculator with the contempt they deserved.

Mr. Fowler is a nice party to charge others with inconsistency in the face of his own political gymnastic record. He came to the legislature in 1895 as a supporter of the government, was one of its most valiant defenders all through the term, but at the Moncton Tory convention of 1895 permitted himself to be pulled from his allegiance by Mr. Foster and immediately became a violent opponent of the administration.

Mr. Fowler who in March 1896 was referred to in the St. John Globe as "that eminent politician, Mr. Fowler, M.P.P., a past grand master whose gymnastic feats have placed him in the front rank of political acrobats" has spent much of his time in Parliament abusing better men, but whatever prestige he might have obtained by the use of a vicious tongue, was shattered by the revelations of the Insurance Commission, and his abuse is now regarded as no slander.

In New Brunswick, where Dr. Pugsley and Mr. Fowler are both well known, it would be considered superfluous to defend the Minister of Public Works against the low down attacks of the champion Tory muckraker and the letters parliamentary course has been such as to denude him of the respect of his fellow members and mark him as a slanderer without peer.

No man can successfully attack the private character of Hon. Dr. Pugsley, and Mr. Fowler would doubtless give a great deal if he were able to defy his enemies in that respect.

Regarding Dr. Pugsley's change of political allegiance he has given excellent reasons who he left the Tory party and threw in his lot with the Liberals. He joined the ranks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier when the Liberal party was in Opposition, and its members warmly welcomed so powerful and popular an ally, and all the slanders that Mr. Fowler can utter against the minister from now until doomsday will not lessen the respect and admiration which Dr. Pugsley's fellow countrymen feel towards that eminent gentleman.

A SERIOUS BLOW.

The defeat of Hon. Winston Churchill, in Manchester, is a hard blow to the prestige of the Asquith ministry, coming as it does immediately after the new premier's accession to power, and in the face of a general election which must come within the next two years.

The riding however, which has for the moment unhorsed Mr. Churchill, was consistently Conservative for nearly a quarter of a century until he won it in the last general election, but Mr. Churchill's personal prestige and his recent promotion to a leading cabinet position, were regarded as factors likely to overcome the natural Conservative tendency of the electors.

Mr. Churchill's hedging during the campaign on important public questions seems to have weakened his cause. At the outset he was regarded as an opponent of Home Rule, and the Irish Nationalist leader, Mr. Redmond, called on his Manchester followers to vote against the new minister. Immediately, Mr. Churchill came out strong for home rule, and Mr. Redmond removed the Nationalist ban, but it was too late.

Mr. Churchill also had the opposition of the extensive brewing and liquor selling interests, because of the government's new license bill, which it is believed will strike a serious blow at the saloons.

There was a Socialist as well as a Conservative candidate in the field against him, but the former cut a small figure in the contest.

Mr. Joyson-Hicks, the successful candidate who was defeated by Mr. Churchill in the last general election, is a London barrister, and a man of promise. He will enjoy considerable prestige on his entrance to parliament, because of having won out against the new and powerful minister, who however, will find no difficulty in securing a safe seat elsewhere.

CURRENT COMMENT

Mr. Organizer Hubbard was not successful in capturing the job of managing the St. John exhibition.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has dismissed a couple more Tory officials for dishonesty.

St. John Sun—Mr. Fowler dislikes Dr. Pugsley as the devil dislikes decency, and for much the same reason.

The hearing of the Fredericton Board of Trade's complaint against unjust freight rate discrimination, before the Railway Commission at Ottawa this week was the direct result of Hon. Mr. Graham's promise to that body that the matter would be taken up and disposed of as promptly as possible.

St. Andrew's Beacon—Premier Hazen told the teachers that he wouldn't be able to get "in touch" with the finances of the province for one session anyway, but when the exhibition managers came along he got "in touch" so quickly that he promised \$2,500 more than the law allows. He has evidently got the "touch" all right.

Major Hodgins, the engineer who was dismissed by the Transcontinental Railway Commission for inefficiency, and who has been making charges of graft against the commission, is to be compelled to make his charges before a parliamentary committee. Chairman Parent declares Hodgins' charges are absolutely without foundation and he challenges investigation.

Provincial Secretary Fleming confesses his inability to understand ordinary methods of book-keeping and accounts by summoning to his aid an expert accountant, who is said to charge \$50 a day for his services. During the election campaign Mr. Fleming declared that the \$20,000 a year government staff should be sufficient to handle the books of the province, but once in office he employs an additional official at an enormous wage. Consistent is it not?

Moncton, which has no exhibition buildings shows considerable nerve in pushing for the Dominion exhibition exhibition grant of 1909. The ambitious city should show its ability to handle a provincial exhibition before aspiring to the federal grant. At a meeting of the Moncton board of trade, Mr. F. W. Sumner, put forward the remarkable proposition that the local government should be called on for a grant to erect exhibition buildings in that city, and another speaker dropped into the error of stating that Fredericton on a former occasion had received the Dominion grant.

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LICENSE VS. SCOTT ACT

LICENSE FOR FREDERICTON.

To the Editor of the Herald:

Sir,—One of the statements that have been most persistently made by the Scott Act orators and writers during the present campaign, is, that the License Law is as much violated in the city of St. John as the Scott Act is in Fredericton. Everyone familiar with the fact knew that this was a deliberate falsehood, and we fear a wilful falsehood, for experience teaches us that the Scott Act advocates are capable of any misrepresentations to gain their ends. We have repeatedly stated that the License Law in St. John was not violated by the tavern keepers, except where the tavern was connected with a restaurant, and that the only people who might violate the law occasionally were the hotel keepers. This statement is fully borne out by the results of the detective work of the temperance men of St. John. For a month beginning some time in March detectives were put by the temperance people on the hotels and taverns of St. John, for the purpose of obtaining evidence against them. The temperance people appeared before the Commissioners of Licenses on Saturday last. They were represented by Mr. L. P. D. Tilley, a son of the late Lieutenant Governor, and a life long temperance man. Mr. Tilley produced and read the evidence which the detectives had collected, and while he did so, said that he felt he must do justice to those who had not violated the law. He said, "While giving you this evidence of violation of the Act, by the hotels, we wish to give credit where credit is due. According to the evidence

obtained for us, only one holder of a tavern license in St. John has been selling liquor during prohibited hours." This statement fully bears out what has been already stated by us in these letters. This offender is the keeper of a restaurant in St. John, who has a license to sell liquor. Now there are seventy-five tavern licenses in St. John, and it appears from the evidence collected by the St. John temperance men themselves, that seventy-four of these licensed tavern keepers strictly obey the law. Their bars are always closed during prohibited hours and on Sunday. In view of this fact, what show of reason is there in the statements made by the temperance men that the license law, if in force in Fredericton, would be as much violated as is the Scott Act.

On Saturday last the temperance people published a lot of alleged statistics in regard to the number of arrests for drunkenness in St. John under license, professing to show that there had been what the Scott Act Committee called an alarming increase. This letter stated that the number of arrests in St. John for drunkenness in 1903 were 763, in 1906 924, and last year 1130. We have no doubt that these figures are bogus, and if they were correct they would prove nothing, except that the amount of drunkenness in St. John, a city of 50,000 inhabitants, and a great port in which there are always hundreds of sailors, was very small. We will place the correct figures before the people of Fredericton before polling day.

LICENSE COMMITTEE.

FUNERAL NOTICE.

Islington Lodge, S. of E. All members of the above society are requested to meet at the Church Hall, on Sunday, at 2.15 p. m., for the purpose of attending the funeral of their late brother, Charles Benjamin. Funeral service begin at 3 o'clock at the Cathedral. Regulation dress—Black clothes, silk hat, white tie and gloves and badges.

W. J. SOUTHERN,
Secretary.

April 25—d11.

NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

The City of Fredericton will apply at the next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick for an Act to authorize the said City annually to present the University of New Brunswick a medal for competition among the students.

(Sgd) J. W. McCREADY,

City Clerk. Every adult welcome.

A Chance To Hear The Other
Side Of The Question

A Mass Meeting

Will be Held in

Masonic Hall, Carleton St.

SUNDAY EVE. APRIL 26th.

Mrs. W. F. Summerhayes of Toronto, the noted License advocate, will talk on Scott Act Repeal and will also explain the difference between the License Law and the Scott Act. Chair to be taken at 8.30 p. m.

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