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DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1902.

ST. JOHN OPPOSITION NOMINATIONS.

The local opposition convention at St. John last night—called by the men who are running the Tory machine, does not appear to have been a howling success. The attendance was not large and there was no marked response from the Liberals who were importuned to be present and help along Mr. Hazen's cause. The Tory machine evidently recognized the failure of its efforts to seduce Liberals from the support of the Government and ran the convention on a Tory basis. Mr. Harry Thorne, president of the Sun Publishing Co., was elected chairman, and all four candidates nominated are Tories.

There were evidently strained relations in the convention and especially in the nominating committee. Friends of Ald. Macrae tried hard to secure him a nomination and Dr. Gilchrist talked very plainly because no North End man found a place on the ticket. The four names finally presented to the convention were Mr. Shaw, M. P. P., Geo. V. McInerney, Frank Hatheway and John E. Wilson, all straight Tories. Mr. Shaw is well known and popular, the chief strength of the ticket, Mr. McInerney is put forward to catch his co-religionists' vote, and with Mr. Hatheway is an alleged labor candidate. Mr. Wilson is unknown outside of St. John, but is also represented as a laboring man.

The ticket is not an overpowering one, and its presence in the field creates no alarm in the Government ranks.

The convention formulated no platform, the speakers simply claiming support because they are against the Government.

The Tory machine after diligent grinding has produced a weak combination, and the failure to place a strong ticket in the field will be reflected in opposition circles all over the province.

THE PROGRESSIVE WEST.

Perhaps the Liberal government at Ottawa is not entitled to all the credit for the wonderful progress of the western country, but it is a fact that there was stagnation in that region when the change of rulers at the federal capital was made in 1896. The west wanted settlers, and through the vigorous, aggressive immigration policy of the Liberal government settlers have been coming in with a rush unprecedented in the history of the country.

One can scarcely take up a western newspaper nowadays or talk with a western man, without being deeply impressed with the astonishing development of Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia. Here are a few facts culled from recent exchanges. Edmonton, a few years ago only a trading post in a great lone land, has shaken off its isolation and is now a flourishing town with 3,000 inhabitants and a dozen growing villages clustering near it, and a farming settlement reaching out on all sides from 40 to 85 miles in the Saskatchewan valley. The government land agent at Edmonton, Arthur G. Harrison, son of Chancellor Harrison of the University of New Brunswick, reports 2,144 homestead entries of 150 acres each, or 343,040 acres in all, in the year ending June 30 last, compared with 1,633 and 1,033 in the two previous years respectively. For July of this year the entries were 252, compared with 183 last year, and for August 202, compared with 132. These figures cover only the territory north of Ponoka. It would be probably nearly correct to assume that between 700,000 and 800,000 acres have been homesteaded

and bought in the Edmonton district within the past twelve months, or an area as large as two ordinary counties in old Ontario.

Take another district in the Northwest and the figures are equally encouraging. It is estimated that within the last twelve months 15,000 people have settled north of Calgary, and the only present hindrance in many districts is that no more land is surveyed. Government officials are at work to remedy this, and it is expected that the tide will continue to flow northward indefinitely. The Canadian Pacific land agent at Calgary reports the sale of 500,000 acres in Alberta this year, of which the greater proportion is in the Edmonton district.

The same story is told of Manitoba. The Mayor of Winnipeg who is visiting Montreal furnishes these interesting statistics. "In the year 1870 Winnipeg had but a population of 215, last year the census amounted to 48,411, and at the end of the present year it will be between 60,000 and 65,000. In 1870 the population of the province was 11,963, while last year it was 254,946. With the great immigration from the United States this year, at the close of the present year it will pass the 300,000 mark. I have just returned from a trip through South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, and although they have this year sent in 60,000 people into Manitoba, next year they are sure to send over 100,000."

Last year the census showed that there were 35,000 farmers in Manitoba, who represented wealth to the extent of \$39,368,051.77. At the present time there are 25,000,000 acres of cultivable land while there are 2,952,002 acres under crop. Then, in 1891, there were but 1,235 miles of railway, and at the present time there are 2,346 miles. This all shows that the country has gone ahead very rapidly. It is, however, but the beginning, and during the next few years greater progress will be made. Two years ago land in almost any part of the Province could be had for three or four dollars an acre, while at the present time lots of it is being sold for as high as fifteen dollars an acre, while in other parts eight or ten dollars can be obtained. The value of farm buildings in Manitoba in 1891 was \$6,000,000; last year it was over \$16,000,000.

These evidences of great prosperity and development of our great western country, must be most gratifying to every Canadian, and are an earnest of what will be accomplished within the next few years.

The Tory organs which wanted local politics run on federal lines in 1899 are now begging Liberal support for Mr. Hazen and his party. They remember their successive defeats in the local election of 1899 and the federal contest of 1900, and do not care to face another trial before the electors with only Conservative support. The Liberals of New Brunswick are not indebted to Mr. Hazen in any way, and they should be excused from assisting to place him in power that he may be the better able to embarrass the Liberal Government at Ottawa.

In the federal contests of 1891, 1896 and 1900 Mr. Hazen denounced Liberals from every platform that he occupied during those campaigns, but now he is begging for Liberal votes to make him premier of New Brunswick. Do the Liberals feel that they owe this debt of gratitude to Mr. Hazen?

St. John electors are urged to "have a slap at Blair" by opposing the Local Government. This style of canvas should not prove very popular either with those who support the minister as a federal representative or those who were friends of Mr. Blair when he was in local politics.

Premier Roblin of Manitoba, is a very sick man, suffering from an intestinal trouble, and his physician has ordered absolute rest.

The Moncton Times admits that the local opposition "does not count for much in Gloucester."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier found some distant relatives at Angoulême, France.

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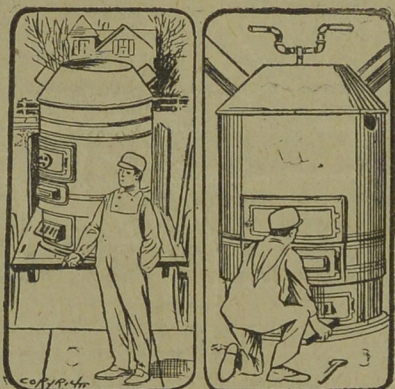
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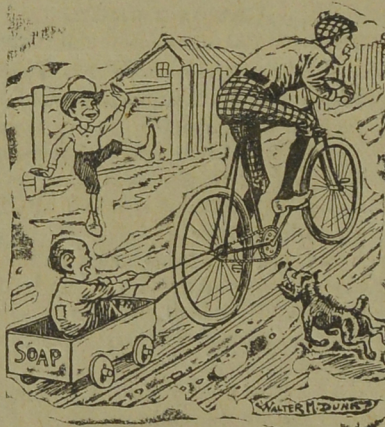
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