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PRESIDENT FALCONER GIVES A FINE ADDRESS

High Standards of Public Morality Urged in His Address to Canadian Club---Lofty Ideals for Our People.



REV. DR. R. A. FALCONER.

Rev. Dr. R. A. Falconer, president-elect of Toronto University, addressed the Canadian Club at last evening's luncheon on the place of the maritime provinces in the life of the dominion.

W. E. Earle presided, with the guest of the evening on his right, and Mayor Sears on his left. Dr. Bayard was, amid great applause, elected an honorary member of the club.

Dr. Falconer on rising met with a great reception. In his opening remarks he referred to the honor of being asked to address the Canadian Club and to the pleasure he always felt in visiting St. John. The subject that he had chosen, he said, was one which he had spoken on in Halifax and it seemed suitable for a Canadian club. Canadian clubs were doing a great deal of good. Ideas were the real agitators in life and at the clubs ideas found expression in words.

Passing on to his subject Dr. Falconer said:

"The attachment of the man from these provinces to his home is proverbial. Go where you will in this dominion, and he is to be found. Others tell you that he is clanish, the reason is that his thoughts often turn to his old home. He may have caught the western fever, he may be painfully conscious of the difference between the rushing life of the newer land, and the settled and somewhat unchanging ways of the east. He may charge it with lack of enterprise, and may sometimes go so far as to say that his old home is not retaining its place in the progress of the nation. But he feels aggrieved if others take such liberty with these ancient and honorable partners in the confederation.

"The right of criticism he reserves for himself, because, deep down in his heart he knows the genuine worth of his own homeland, and cherishes its memory among the things that are most sacred to him. Others may say that the future is with the west, but the maritime man does not really believe that the days of the east are yet numbered.

"The superficial traveler pays little heed to all that lies between the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic, but we know that he has missed much that is best worth seeing in this dominion. There is the Metapedia Valley, the fertile uplands of St. John, and its intervales, almost classic in the shade of the stately elms. There are the marshes swept by the sea breeze, the apple blossoms of Cornwallis in early summer, the surf breaking regularly on multitudinous islands, which, like a glacis, sheer off into the blue ocean from the southern coast.

"There are gleaming bits of sea and lake to be seen, many a mountain in Cape Breton, and the blended colors of the sky, land and water which gave distinction to the garden of the gulf. Here are not only material resources in abundance, but natural beauties which form the stuff on which the Canadian imagination will feed, and thereby coming into touch with the infinite spirit receives a noble sentiment of love for nature.

But all this may seem to many of you too dreamy. Let me then remind you that from a purely physical point of view the maritime provinces are a necessary factor in the life of the dominion. Without their co-operation, as you are aware, confederation would not have been consummated. Without their permanent adhesion to this dominion, Canada could not win or retain her place as a nation.

Look at a map of the dominion. These provinces jut out into the sea like hands that reach across the ocean to grasp the hand of the mother country, and we are told that we have retained a greater likeness to the life of the old land than the western provinces which lie in closer proximity to the United States. We are a link between east and west. Imagine the effect of severing these provinces from the dominion. In summer there would be, it is true, a magnificent highway for trade by the St. Lawrence, which, with its tributaries, and adjuncts, almost bisects the northern part of this continent. But the St. Lawrence is open for little more than six months of the year, and what a truncated nation we should become were there no exit to the ocean for half the year except through a foreign land.

Even to secure the privilege of the southern ports we require to have our own, which may be used in times of emergency. I fancy that many Canadians do not realize that the security we enjoy is due to the fact that did the necessity arise we have our own access to the Atlantic all the year round. At present it may be more of a potent than an actual blessing, but there it is. The Atlantic seaboard belongs in part to Canada, and is one of those possessions which though neglected is priceless. These provinces, I repeat, are and must remain as necessary a link as any in the national chain. Remove these links, and the whole chain will have to be rearranged.

"Probably these provinces have not yet realized as they should have done their importance to the dominion. Sacrifices have been made, and if these are made in the right spirit, we shall take pride in the success of the nation, and in turn our services and our necessary functions in rendering possible a complete dominion, equipped to meet the world in the east or the west, will be recognized by the other members of the confederation.

"This gives substance to the hope that soon one of the important trade routes of the world will pass through these provinces. Such a hpoe is no mere sentimental desire to gratify an unreasonable national idea, nor is it the ill-considered sigh of a childish people for an expensive commercial toy. It has much to justify it. It would greatly benefit these provinces.

"A trade route brings those who live upon it into the midst of the people. Such a route will draw to itself contributions from the remote parts of the provinces, an transfer them with all speed to the markets of the world, just as surely as the streams carry the riches from the distant hillsides down to the plains through which a mighty river makes its way. Such a route of commerce would send a vivifying energy through these provinces as a draught of air, forced along the main corridors of a large building purifies also the atmosphere of the interior rooms.

"But the assumption that our future depends in some measure upon ourselves, leads me to another function in our national life, which these provinces serve, and it may seem to you that I have more right to enter upon it than upon concerns of trade and commerce.

"The maritime provinces will serve their highest function according to the quality of manhood which they contribute to the commonwealth. Are the men disciplined, are they moral, are they masters of themselves, are they able to show that they are greater than their material environment? I believe that the very fact that the people of these provinces, though prosperous, are not wealthy, is in their favor. There is perhaps less likelihood here than elsewhere of an invasion of luxury. They may find it easier than others do to assert their manhood, because the climate and the soil will never enervate them by offering too easily the comforts of life.

"Nor need we think that this mastery comes only by supreme effort of the will. It follows in the wake of homely duties honestly done. There is simple but absolute truth in the tales of the old story books which make success attend on most unlikely persons merely because behind the homely garb there was commonplace virtue. So it will ever be that in most unlikely sources the abiding worth of a people will be discovered in those simple, honest lives devoted to duties performed, it may be, far from the eyes of the world.

"But I would particularly say that in these provinces we should be true to ourselves, and live the life that is most natural to ourselves. By the facility of transportation, men are becoming like one another in thought and manners. To a certain extent this is valuable to a country, but it is also producing a depressing monotony in many quarters. One town is just like another. They spring up thick and fact, and are laid out on the same models. You buy the same kind of goods almost wherever you go, and there is an increase, it seems to me, in the similarity of men's views.

"Individuality in countries, towns and persons, is disappearing so fast that the interests and richness of life are probably less than they were. Let me urge you not to be over anxious to reproduce here the same type of living which is found elsewhere. These provinces, if they live their own simple and yet busy life, will enrich the total life of the Dominion more than by seeking to follow the example of larger and wealthier provinces.

"The very variety of life here gives it character.

"Here there is no monotony of landscape, and you have the sounding sea running far and wide and bringing ships from foreign ports close to your own homes. You have the breadth and mystery of the ocean, here no one industry prevails over all others. You have farmers, miners, lumbermen, those who follow the sea, each with his way of looking at life, and as they co-mingle, each adding interest to the whole. You have many who by education and travel are able to impart their refinement to the community, making their influence the more sensible as there are no cities large enough to dissipate the culture of the few.

"In the towns and cities there are numbers of thoughtful, quiet people whose interest in the higher side of life extends far more widely than they imagine. The provinces would be distinctly the poorer were these people to be gathered out of the towns and centred in large and rapidly growing cities.

"If anything has distinguished the maritime provinces in the past it has assuredly been their reputation for intelligence. Few countries of the new world have had a higher average of thoughtful competent citizenship. For generations the rights of the people have been understood, as also the necessity for intelligence in order that the privileges of a democracy may be exercised. This has partly arisen through the contest for political justice. In the maritime provinces it may not have been so violent as elsewhere, but it was very real. Our fathers understood what they wanted, and they learned to govern themselves.

"Controversy is often an evil thing, but if the controversy has arisen because narrow men whose hand upon the state has been the cramping hand of the past that would have crushed the young life into a puny bloodless thing then the fierce wrestle, the dispiriting hours, the weariness, have been blessings, because thus men think and live and grow. Freedom, understood and won, the liberty to be all that God meant us to be, appreciated at its true value, is the greatest school for intelligence.

"Men who know the essential rights and duties of manhood are intelligent men. Do we today teach our youth to meditate upon whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, so that they may speak nobly and act with chivalry. Does the average citizen of this province today understand, as our fathers did, the meaning of our heritage and the value of political freedom?

"Those who are most deeply engaged in public life tell us a pitiful story of the corruption of the electorate, and they say that the state of affairs is growing worse. What is the meaning of this? Surely that our intelligence has stopped short. Many in the past have thought that the mere privilege of voting would cure the evils of the body politic. We know today that multitudes of our people who cast their votes do so without any conception of their privilege.

"I am inclined to think that ignorance, rather than depravity, lies at the root of a great deal of our corruption, and that we shall not get a cure for the evil until the leaders of our public life undertake to educate the people of the country in political ideas. Many do not know the meaning of a vote, and will sell it for money without a twinge of conscience, because they see that the man who wishes to get their vote desires it for a selfish party victory. What impresses them is that for the party canvasser their vote is a precious commodity. Then let him pay for it. I fancy that we shall not have the venal voter cured until we so train him in citizenship that he will understand what that vote means. Extreme party spirit is the cause, both direct and indirect, of much of our corruption.

"If the newspapers and our leaders would undertake to drop abuse and conduct their public discussions so as to educate the masses in the meaning of citizenship, we should find that increasing political intelligence would remedy much of our local corruption. Shall we not soon return to days like those when men awaited the illuminating utterance of some leader and afterwards talked it over and grounded themselves in the principles of their party?

"Let me urge you to defend the intelligence of the people, and primarily protect the common school. It is not beneath your regard. Some men may be deluded into thinking that the epoch-making event today is the struggle between financiers. These men are much talked of, but of immensely greater concern to this country is the condition of the public schools. In those schools your citizens are being trained.

"As I drove through your city today I realized that it was not the work being done at Sand Point, so proudly pointed out to me, but in the public schools that your future greatness depended upon. What are your boys? What are your girls? What are you doing for them and what will you make of them? What kind of teachers are you giving them?

"Let us use our influence wherever we go to combat the folly of stinginess in education, which prevails in many districts not only in this province but in the dominion. Will not the day come when we shall cease haggling about the price we pay teachers, and seek rather the best we can, even for rural schools. A broad and educative curriculum, well trained teachers and an opportunity for every child to do the best with the talents that God has given him, will soon solve the question whether New Brunswick will continue to do her duty by the dominion.

"In conclusion, I must return to the old commonplace which is ever new because it is so often forgotten, and has to be learned over again by each individual amidst many regrets at the impossibility of redeeming failures that need never have been. Character is the supreme commodity which will always serve as the rate of exchange in human life, because it cannot be counterfeited, and is of essential value in itself. It is not exclusive nor like ordinary gold, found only in certain strata. It is found wherever men live in the fear of God, and in love to their fellows.

"As long as the springs of our people's life are fed from the rise in the lofty sources of truth, obedience and reverence, and while in the dust and heat of the common day on the plains we seek to live in sympathy with Him who sat by the well of Sychor at high noon, and did not disdain the outcast, we shall have a people whose face is radiant with moral health, whose eye is clear to see afar, and whose nerve will be strong to guide our nation in the way of wisdom."

Dr. G. G. Melvin, in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Falconer, dwelt on the fact that the provinces did not realize their importance.

In the course of an address in which he seconded the vote of thanks, Dr. Alward predicted their predominance and caused some amusement by declaring: "If we cast our horoscope where shall we be in thirty years?" Dr. Alward also advocated maritime union and referred to the provincial executives as "Lilliputian governments." Speaking of the All-Red route, he said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had won golden opinions for the part he had taken in the imperial conference as an advocate of the route which, if realized, would mean that the trade of continents would pass over Canadian soil.

The president tendered the vote of thanks to Dr. Falconer, who replied gracefully and the meeting dispersed with the singing of God Save the King.

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....Next.... Saturday

THE TIMES next Saturday will begin the publication of a thrilling serial story, **"As a Man Sows,"** a tale of mystery and romance, and for publication of which THE TIMES has exclusive rights in this territory.

JULY 31, '07

Our Great Mid-Summer Sale left us with Broken Lots in Many Lines. These we will CLEAR AT SACRIFICE PRICES.

The enormous amount of business done the past few days have made great inroads into our stocks, and as a result a great number of broken lines need clearing out. These we will announce from day to day. We have marked them at prices that will make them move quickly.

TODAY MEN'S TROUSERS AND SUITS.

MEN'S TWEED SUITS--A quantity of Men's Tweed Suits, nice neat patterns, in Browns, Grays, Greens and Fancy Mixtures. The sizes are pretty well broken, but in the lot will be found every size from 36 to 46.

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