

The Evening Times.

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MORE REVELATIONS

Premier Hazen made the astonishing statement in the house yesterday that the government was unable to state how many bonds of the International Railway had been guaranteed. There was not in any of the departments any record to show what had been done. The financial methods of the late government must have been extremely loose. Apparently no case was taken to have an accurate account of transactions involving large sums. The more the present government enquires into these matters the more apparent it becomes that the change of government was too long delayed. The members of the late government who are in the house do not appear to be able or willing to throw light on the situation. Apparently it was largely a one-man government, and the province is the gainer by the withdrawal of that influence from provincial affairs. Whether the Dominion has been a gainer thereby remains to be seen.

THE MIDDLEMAN

The senate has adopted a resolution which declares that "purchasing through middlemen by the government should be discontinued as extravagant, unfair to legitimate merchants, and an unnecessary waste of public money." The reasonableness of this resolution is obvious to the people of every community where government contracts of any magnitude are given out. There have been too many instances of larger profits to middlemen in connection with public works all over the country. In a small way, though not small when the limits of provincial resources are considered, New Brunswick has had an illustration in the affair of the contract for school books. The high price has been very largely due to the middlemen's profits. In the larger field of the federal public works department some transactions with middlemen have been at great cost to the public treasury. The resolution adopted by the senate is entirely in the public interest.

THE GOVERNMENT YIELDS

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has himself given the answer to those eager partisans who have been busy glorifying the Aylesworth elections bill. Those newspapers which have been so loud in their denunciation of the opposition, charging its members with delaying needed legislation and wasting public money, must now feel rather sorry they went so far. For Sir Wilfrid has gracefully surrendered. He has conceded the just demands of the opposition, and taken the reins from the hands of that reckless political driver, the Hon. Mr. Aylesworth. The Manitoba and British Columbia voters' lists are not to be handed over to the machine.

This incident should have a chastening effect upon the government press. The valiant editors should proceed with more caution. They should be sure before they burn their bridges that their leader will not suddenly order a retreat. It would be the part of discretion to give some attention to the character of the contest, and if necessary sound a note of warning, rather than to plunge recklessly forward, only to find themselves cut off from their support and without effective ammunition.

In his remarks yesterday, in which he abandoned the Aylesworth bill, by agreeing to the vital changes demanded by the opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with his usual skill, made the best of the situation, but the fact that he assented to radical changes in the proposed measure, and accepted the amendments demanded by Mr. Borden and his followers is more eloquent than the most skillful manipulation of

words. The whole country is indebted to the opposition for the determined and successful fight it has waged to protect the ballot from the operations of the machine.

PULP AND PAPER

Replying to Senator Edwards' contention that the pulp and paper making industry will gradually gravitate to Canada, and that meantime we should not check the export of pulp-wood to the States, the Montreal Star remarks:—"If the American paper-making business is coming over to Canada when its supply of pulp wood and wood pulp at home fails, why should not Canada hasten the date of failure by shutting off the supply from this side of the border? The best thing undoubtedly is to follow up Sir Wilfrid's proposal to hold an official enquiry into the whole question, and let the Canadian people know exactly where they stand. A few especially well-informed people undoubtedly know now; but the ordinary man lacks authoritative information. This, however, is not a task to be undertaken in the dark. We should have laid before us the exact timber situation of the Continent, and, indeed, of the world; and then we would be in a position to choose intelligently between the conflicting sorts of advice which we get."

There is a very general interest in the meeting this week of the High Court of the Independent Order of Foresters. If the old member who has been insured for a thousand dollars is to find himself after the next session of the Supreme Court insured for only seven or eight hundred, he will naturally be very much disappointed. At the last session of the High Court, the report of the committee on state of the order contained these sentences:

"The thrilling utterance of our deceased chief at the last High Court, 'we have nothing to fear,' has been more than justified by the revelations of the royal commission. Your committee are assured beyond the peradventure of a doubt that the I. O. F. stands on a broader basis and firmer foundation today in this jurisdiction and through the entire world than ever before in its history."

Of the Conservative outlook in British Columbia, the Victoria Colonist says: "Mr. Eaton, organizer for the Provincial Conservative Association, after a tour through British Columbia lasting two months, declares that the party is in a splendid state of organization at all points. This confirms a conviction which the Colonist had formed from the numerous reports which had reached it from independent sources and a perusal of its interior exchanges, which pretty accurately reflect public opinion. And the party has every reason to feel in fine fettle. Not only does a Conservative administration enjoy the confidence and esteem of the people of this province to a degree never before accorded a previous government but it is as certain as anything can be that there will be no solid seven from British Columbia, to support the Liberal leader when the ballots have been counted at the approaching general elections."

Another newspaper man, this time from Halifax, has got a government job. After all, the Laurier government has some lucid intervals. It requires some sacrifice, of course, for a man to give up the task of setting the world right and settle down to the routine of a small office, but to the credit of the average newspaper man it must be said that he is not unwilling to suffer for his country. There are still a few of us left. This last remark is not made obtrusively, but for the information of the government.

The statement of the provincial premier yesterday makes it clear that under the new audit act the auditor general will be perfectly independent of the government of the day. This is as it should be, and should have been in years past. With an independent audit there would have been less mystery about the public accounts.

The meeting at the board of trade rooms this evening should be well attended. The Workmen's Compensation Bill will be considered. There is a very generally expressed view that the measure is too drastic in some of its provisions, and those who are of this opinion should be heard.

The Ottawa Citizen has been printing a series of interviews on the boys of the city and the best means of preventing waywardness. The general consensus of opinion is that the boys of the capital are urgently in need of more playgrounds.

The Sun says there can be no doubt of "the government's honest and just intent" in the matter of the election bill. Then why not have framed an honest and just bill in the first place?

The inspection of branch railways cost the province something over \$2,600. How much was it worth?

NOTICE

To members of the Board of Trade and others affected by the passing of the "Workmen's Compensation Act."

A meeting will be held in the Board of Trade rooms, 85 Prince William street, WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 13th, at 8 o'clock, for the discussion of the above act.

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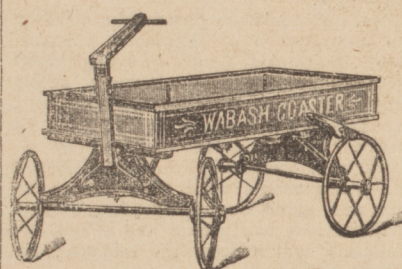
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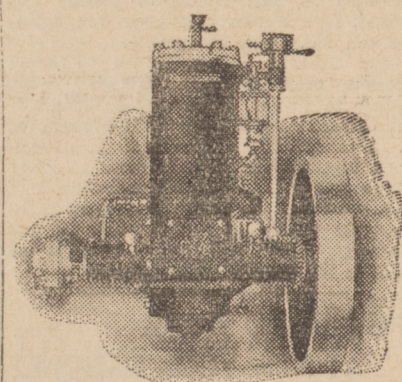
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Tinged with color faintly, Like the morning sky. Or more pale and saintly, Wrapped in leaves ye lie. Even as children asleep in faith's simplicity.

There the wild-wood robin Hymns your solitude. And the rain comes sobbing Through the budding wood. While the southwind sighs, but dare not be more rude.

Were your pure lips fashioned Out of air and dew you'd be Starlight unimpassioned, Dawn's most tender hue. And scattered by the woods that gathered sweets for you?

Fairest and most lonely, From the world apart, Made for beauty only, Veiled from Nature's heart, With such unconscious grace as makes the dream of art!

Were not mortal sorrow An immortal shade, Then would I to-morrow Such a flower be made, And live in the dear woods where my lost love played.

—Rose Terry Cooke.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

OPENED BY MISTAKE.

(Denver Post.) Absent-mindedly a woman yawned. "Pardon me," she said. "I didn't mean to do that."

"I see," responded Mr. Lingerlong. "Opened my mistake."

WHAT SHE FEARED.

(Puck.) Mr. Subbs (after engaging cook)—There's one thing I suppose you should know, Miss Flanagan—my wife is a chronic invalid, confined to her room.

Miss Flanagan—That's fine. I was worried she might be one of them chronic kickers confined to the kitchen.

THEN HE SUBSIDED.

(Liverpool Mercury.) "I never saw such a woman in all my life," said Bass. "You are never satisfied with anything."

"People who know the man I took for a husband," replied Mrs. B., "think, on the contrary, that I am easily satisfied."

A LEFT-HANDED COMPLIMENT.

(Milwaukee Sentinel.) "Well," said the young lawyer, after he had heard his new client's story, "your case appears to be good. I think we can secure a verdict without much trouble."

"That's what I told my wife," said the man. "And yet she insisted at first that we ought to engage a first-class lawyer."

POPULAR GAME.

(Philadelphia Ledger.) "Where have you been this evening?" asked O'Riley of O'Toole.

"Shure, O! have been playin' 'Bridget' whist."

"Bridget whist! An' how do you play that?"

"O! sit in th' kitchen wid' Bridget, an' ate pie, an' cake, an' chicken, an' when Bridget hears th' missus comin' she says, 'whist.'"

ON THE WAR PATH.

Senator Casgrain has notified Premier Whitney that he (Whitney) is going to get beaten. Ever since the senator shook hands with Roosevelt he has been hitting the war-path with an 'em alive look in his eye.

A REDUCED RATE.

Judge—"How many times have you been arrested before?"

Prisoner—"Five, sir."

Judge—"Then I shall feel it my duty to impose the maximum fine."

Prisoner—"But, your honor, isn't it only fair to give a reduced rate to regular customers?"—Judge.

A USELESS STRIKE

Cotton Mills Are Still Working Short Hours Despite Absence of 1,200 Strikers.

(Montreal Gazette.) There is strong evidence that one more has been added to the list of unsuccessful strikes engineered by the Textile Workers' Federation during the past few years. While every effort was made by certain union officials to engage the members of the federation in a general strike against the Dominion Textile Company when the recent reduction of ten per cent in wages went into effect, less than ten per cent of the operatives have responded to the call, and it is stated that a large number of these were persuaded against their better judgment to go out. There are about 1200 employees of the company now on strike, and the general work is so little affected by this that even the mills which are working are still running short time for lack of business. No more ill-considered time for a strike could have been chosen by the Textile Federation, since business in the Canadian cotton trade is now so dull that there is very little work going on, and it is stated by cotton men that although the mills are being kept going just now in the hope of better times ahead, there is practically no profit in the business at present, and the productive capacity of the mills is greatly in advance of the demands of the trade. This is accentuated by the fact that under the Fielding tariff there is so little protection to the domestic products that their trade is greatly cut into by the cotton mills of the eastern states.

Discussing this phase of the matter yesterday, Charles Gordon, managing director of the Dominion Textile Company, said: "The act is simply the result of the lack of protection by the existing tariff we must either reduce wages or shut down the mills. There is not sufficient margin of profit otherwise to keep the business going. As a matter of fact, the vast majority of our employees, including all the men amongst them, have taken a philosophical view of the situation and accepted the cut."

"The Dominion Textile Company," continued Mr. Gordon, "has about seven thousand employees at various mills throughout the country, and of these about twelve hundred have quit work. This includes most of the employees at the St. Henri mills and a number of spinners at the Hochelaga mill. But a large number of those who have actually gone on strike did so against their inclination, being induced to do so by the action of a few hotheads amongst themselves, and misguided leaders of the federation."

"In fact, from information we have from reliable sources, all the better classes of the cotton operatives are disgusted with the manner in which the Textile Federation has been run. The president of the federation, Mr. Gignac, was opposed to striking, but Mr. Wilfrid Paquette, the secretary of the union, started a movement to strike against the reduction of wages, and has managed to induce a number of the employees to go out."

"So far as the strike is concerned it is not bothering us a bit. Even with the partial strike going on present conditions are such that the mills are not being operated on full time. We are, however, keeping the mills going as much as we can afford to, hoping for a better time ahead. We are quite able to get along for awhile without the operatives who have gone out. The cotton trade is very quiet in Canada, and even worse in the United States."

"Under these circumstances there is not the slightest possibility of our meeting the demands of the strikers, and they will simply have to stay out until they take a more reasonable view of the situation."

DOES TOBACCO HURT THE USER.

New York, May 11.—It has been the common opinion that cigarettes and the general use of tobacco and stimulants have caused an increase in mortality, especially amongst students. A writer in the N. Y. Saturday Evening Post, Dr. Meylan, argues from the contrary point of view. He believes on the ground of statistics that "tobacco does not stunt the growth or impair the lung capacity of students." He says that the physical condition of the smokers, their weight and total strength is on the average better than that of the non-smokers.

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