

THE LINDSAY POST

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LINDSAY, FRIDAY, APRIL, 28th.

A WARM ONE

(Peterboro Examiner)

The London Advertiser, without the fear of lese majestie before its eyes, calls Col. Sam Hughes "an Ottawa nuisance." Not so; Col Sam, is the effervescent powder that gives fizz and sparkle to the ditch water dullness into which parliament often subsides.

PROGRESS OF VETO BILL

The persistency and firmness with which Premier Asquith is dealing with the Veto Bill in the British House of Commons, sets at rest all rumors to the effect that a compromise would be arrived at. The Tories are hopelessly divided, while the Liberals present a solid front. The veto will pass the House of Commons in spite of the obstruction tactics of the Tories. The hand writing is on the wall, and it means much to the House of Lords.

THE BELLEVILLE ONTARIO

One of the brightest and best daily papers coming to our sanctum is the Belleville Ontario. It has just completed its first year under new management, and the great change wrought is a distinct tribute to those responsible. Its editorial page is in the hands of a most capable writer, while the news columns are always filled with newsy items of city and district. The Post congratulates the Ontario on its success. It is a pleasure to peruse its pages.

CONSERVATIVE PAPER SLATES BORDEN

(From the Week, Conservative, B. C.) Mr. Borden is a most estimable man, of the most mediocre attainments. He could never lead a corporal's guard to victory, much less a large party. He has none of the instincts and none of the magnetism of a leader. He has missed every great opportunity of making a stand against the policy of the Laurier Government and in some instances, notably that of the Grand Trunk Railway policy, he literally made a hash of matters through not knowing his own mind. His stand on the naval question was vacillating, and on the present great reciprocity question feeble and featureless. In no sense does he lead the party at the present time.

The leaders of the Liberal party resort to every device to keep him in his position; they successively and successfully arouse his personal pride and his jealousy in order to render it impossible for any concerted movement to secure his removal. In a political sense he is the "easiest thing" in Opposition leaders that a government ever had to deal with, so no wonder they do their best to keep him there. A man who, however, estimable his character, has failed through ten years of leadership to impress on the party or the country should resign just once more and stay with his resignation. Whatever the immediate effect on the party might be, the ultimate effect could hardly fail to hasten the return of that party to power. The country is face to face with a great issue, involving not merely a commercial but national and Imperial interests. Mr. Borden has utterly failed to rise to

the occasion, and in the opinion of not a few thinking Conservatives the psychological moment for his final retirement has arrived.

CLEAN THE BACK PREMISES

The following from the Peterboro Examiner applies with equal force to conditions existing here: It is a truism that the majority of our calamities come from carelessness or some form of neglect or precaution. Ottawa has had 1196 cases of typhoid since January 1st, 1911, and the cause was bad water, owing to carelessness in allowing the city water supply to be polluted with sewage, something that could, with proper precaution, have been prevented. The outbreak, primarily due to bad water, was aggravated, and continued by the neglect of preventable sanitary precautions. Now is time of year that ought to be devoted to a thorough cleaning of our town; and, to insure a summer of sanitary conditions, all decaying rubbish should be removed from private premises and public places. The attention of the Board of Health is directed to the lanes in the central part of the town, which are in a veritably ghastly condition of filth and untidiness. Prompt action is demanded in the interests of the public health and comfort. By making the city clean in every part we shall be protecting the public health and discouraging the house fly, which, as one of the most sporadic agents of disease, dissemination breeds joyously in household filth apt to fester in the hot sun of early spring and summer. If the Board of Health does not wish to earn the title of Board of Disease it must act promptly.

A BEAVER COINAGE

(Montreal Herald)

Is it not about time the Canadian mint had evolved a distinctively Canadian gold coinage? It is true, no doubt, that the nature of business in Canada does not call for a very extensive use of gold as yet, and yet there is a good deal of it here, what with English sovereigns, American eagles, and the fractions thereof. The mint is popularly supposed to be coining sovereigns. Why not coin some leavers?

There is a first rate historical basis for the adoption of the beaver as the emblem of a national coinage. Coin collectors know that there is already a beaver coinage that is very much prized. The old Northwest Company issued beaver tokens as a convenience in their dealings with the Indian trappers. The Hudson Bay Company also issued a set of tokens in terms of many beaver skins, the denominations being one, a half, a quarter and an eighth. Why not adopt the same nomenclature for the coinage of a century which puts the beaver in its coat of arms? Make the beaver twenty dollars, with tens and fives, and it would not be very long before the coinage would serve as one more excellent advertisement of the growing strength of this country. There need be no fear of Canadian gold coinage being treated with indifference or suspicion as Canadian silver coinage frequently is. Gold is gold, the world over, and the value of the coin is the value of the metal in it. It was right and proper to establish a Canadian mint; once established it should be turning Canadian gold into distinctively Canadian coins.

WHAT IS RECIPROCITY?

In his recent speech in the House of Commons, Col. Hughes denied that an interchange of free natural products could properly be described as a reciprocity arrangement; and went on to say:

"In Sir John McDonald's time I remember distinctly his explaining to us what he meant by reciprocity. By reciprocity he said, he meant not free trade in natural products, but that if the United States would admit our barley free, which they wanted, they would let in something from them in return free which we required. They would let in free of duty what they required, and we would allow in free of customs what we required. There was no intention in the slightest degree—and I knew Sir John intimately from 1885 onwards—on his part to have free trade in natural products, but what he wanted was reciprocity in natural products and not free trade."

The records, argues the Winnipeg Free Press, do not, however, agree with Col. Hughes' recollections. Sir John's reciprocity offer to the United States is set forth explicitly in the tariff law of 1879—the National Policy Act—in these terms (section 6): "Any or all the following things, that is to say, animals of all kinds, green fruit, hay, straw, bran, seeds of all kinds, vegetables (including potatoes and other roots), plants, trees

wheat, pease and beans, barley, rye, oats, Indian corn, buckwheat and all other grain, flour of wheat and flour of rye, Indian meal and oatmeal, and flour and meal of any other grain, butter, cheese, fish (salted, smoked or fresh), and lumber, may be imported into Canada free of duty, or at a less rate of duty than is provided by this Act, upon proclamation of the Governor in Council which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that similar articles from Canada may be imported into the United States free of duty, not exceeding that payable on the same under such proclamation when imported into Canada."

That is to say, like things for like—barley for barley, wheat for wheat, coal for coal, etc. Pretty much the same arrangement, in fact, that is now awaiting ratification at Ottawa. Moreover, Mr. Hughes will please note that Sir John A. Macdonald took power to affect this interchange by order-in-council. He had the power to put it through in a single afternoon, without consulting Parliament at all.

GOLD ROADS--THE MUD TAX

More than sixty-five per cent of the whole population of Canada is rural. The farmer does not escape a heavy road tax, even if not a dollar is spent on the public highways. The "mud tax" is heavier than that imposed by the county or municipality, for it is paid in the time lost in going to market with half loads, in driving with a team when one horse might be left at home to do farm work if the road were smooth and hard as it should be; in wasting time in the spring waiting for the sun to make the road passable; in wearing out wagon harness and horses wallowing through mud with a fraction of a load. It is a heavy tax in this province, and is, more than any other one item, responsible for the unsatisfactory bad roads; the development of business and trade is interfered with; the interchange of courtesies and the growth of ideas and fellowship prevented, the prosperity of schools interfered with, and all other interests retarded and discouraged through the condition of our highways.

Hon. Edward Brough, president of the board of agriculture in New Jersey, is reported as saying that on a new stone road from Merchantsville to Camden his teams haul from eighty-five to one hundred baskets of potatoes, where they formerly hauled twenty-five. One of the counties in that state issued about \$450,000 of four per cent bonds and put down sixty miles of stone roads averaging sixteen feet wide; and though they pay taxes to meet the interests on these bonds, their tax-rate is no lower than it was before the road was built.

It is easy to see how that result would be brought about. The increased value of property, and the enhanced returns from product at lower expense for marketing make it a highly profitable investment. A very reasonable, progressive, and scientific road policy in this province, would do more towards increasing the value of farms and all property throughout our rural districts than anything else that could be undertaken. The Liberal party in New Brunswick should prepare and promulgate a modern road policy.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A woman writing to the Toronto Globe quotes the statement of a gentleman, who declared that Canadian women are not fit to vote. There are not two hundred women in Ontario that take an intelligent interest in public affairs, and if you gave the rest the vote today, they would not use it.

The lady put in a plea for the loyalist women who had done much noble work in laying the foundations of Canada. Whereupon, her very frank, if not brutal opponent burst out: "The loyalist women, indeed; their time died out a long while ago—our present Canadian women are not fit to tie the shoe-laces of these women—I know them better than you do."

The latter part of this speech, need not be taken too seriously, adds a woman writer in a western exchange. There is always a

disposition to place the Golden Age in the past. The scenes of our own childhood are proverbially dear. It must be remembered, too, that grand daughters and great grand daughters of the women who were pioneers in Eastern Canada are bravely facing conditions in the west and north of the country, which require as much heroism as tried the courage of their forebears.

But the assertion that Canadian women are not fit to vote is another matter! It is no argument to say that there are thousands of ignorant and corrupt men who vote at every election. It is true, no doubt, that many women are ignorant of the great issues of politics. It is, however, certain that if they are entrusted with political power they will prepare themselves to exercise it intelligently. He would be a very ignorant man who would say that women could not study political economy as well as the men. Whether the majority of women in Canada will be wise to devote their time to this pursuit is another question.

COL. HUGHES' BROADSIDE

Winnipeg Free Press.

Hansard is to hand with the official report of Col. Hughes' interminable deliverance upon reciprocity. We quote for the particular interest of the Western Grain Growers his reference to the leaders of that movement, as they appear in the official record.

Mr. Hughes: This gang of leaders, this Grain Growers Association from the northwest that came down here the same sort of fellow we find popping up in blacksmith statesmanship.

Mr. Lancaster: Grit organizers.

Mr. Hughes: Every one of them a grit organizer and heeler; not the rank and file of the farmers of Canada, but the men who try to push themselves to the front, and whose wives are at home wearing long boots and cleaning out the cow stables and the horse stables, while these fellows are hanging around the blacksmith shop spouting statesmanship for the world over.

Again, at a later period in his speech, the valiant Colonel said:

Speaking of the association of Grain Growers, I wish to say a word about the leaders of that association. I may be possibly a little too ardent, but I know the gang, and they are the same as those who fought long years ago. I do not believe that one of them is honest at heart. They are today, as they were formerly, in the pay of the Liberal party. It will require more than the declarations of that gang to convince me that they are not in the pay of Jim Hill, and the Yankees or the great Liberal party of this Dominion. At all the events their actions are along these lines."

When it is recalled that the head and front of the delegation, the bell weather, chief spokesman, fugleman, and prophet was none other than D. W. McCuaig, chairman of the Manitoba Elevator Commission, a hard shell Tory, of the most pronounced type, the Colonel's diatribe takes on a humorous complexion.

This attack upon the western grain growers—because this insult to the chosen leaders is of necessity a reflection upon the whole association, though Col. Hughes strove hard to make a distinction in this respect—is nothing short of scandalous. The demands made upon the Dominion Government in December were an embarrassment to it, as every one recognized at the time; and the apparent result of the delegation's interview was perceptibly to weaken the government's hold upon the rural constituencies. The leaders of the movement were therefore treated with much consideration by Conservative public men and newspapers generally, though it must be admitted that Col. Hughes is consistent to this extent that, at that time he subjected them to strong criticism in an interview, which he gave the Free Press.

That by an unexpected strategical feat Government has escaped from the position of danger in which it was put last December by the farmers' demands, and that the opposition has ensconced itself in the hole from which the Government emerged are important political de-

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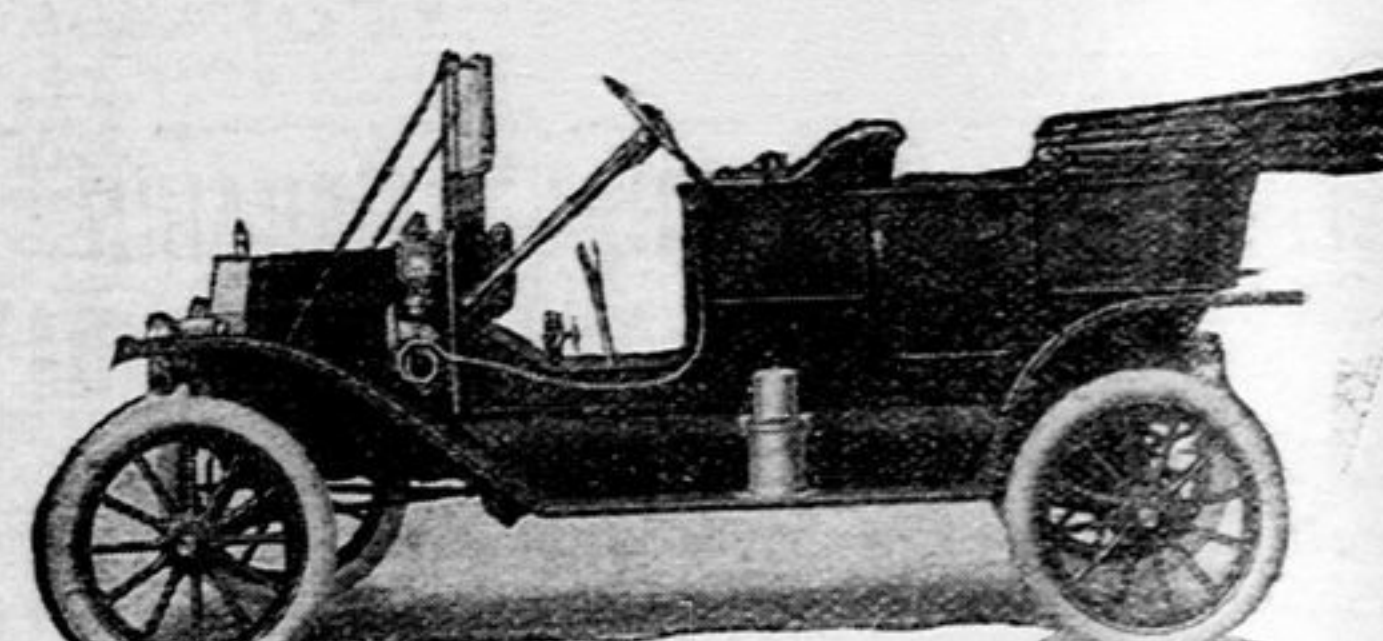

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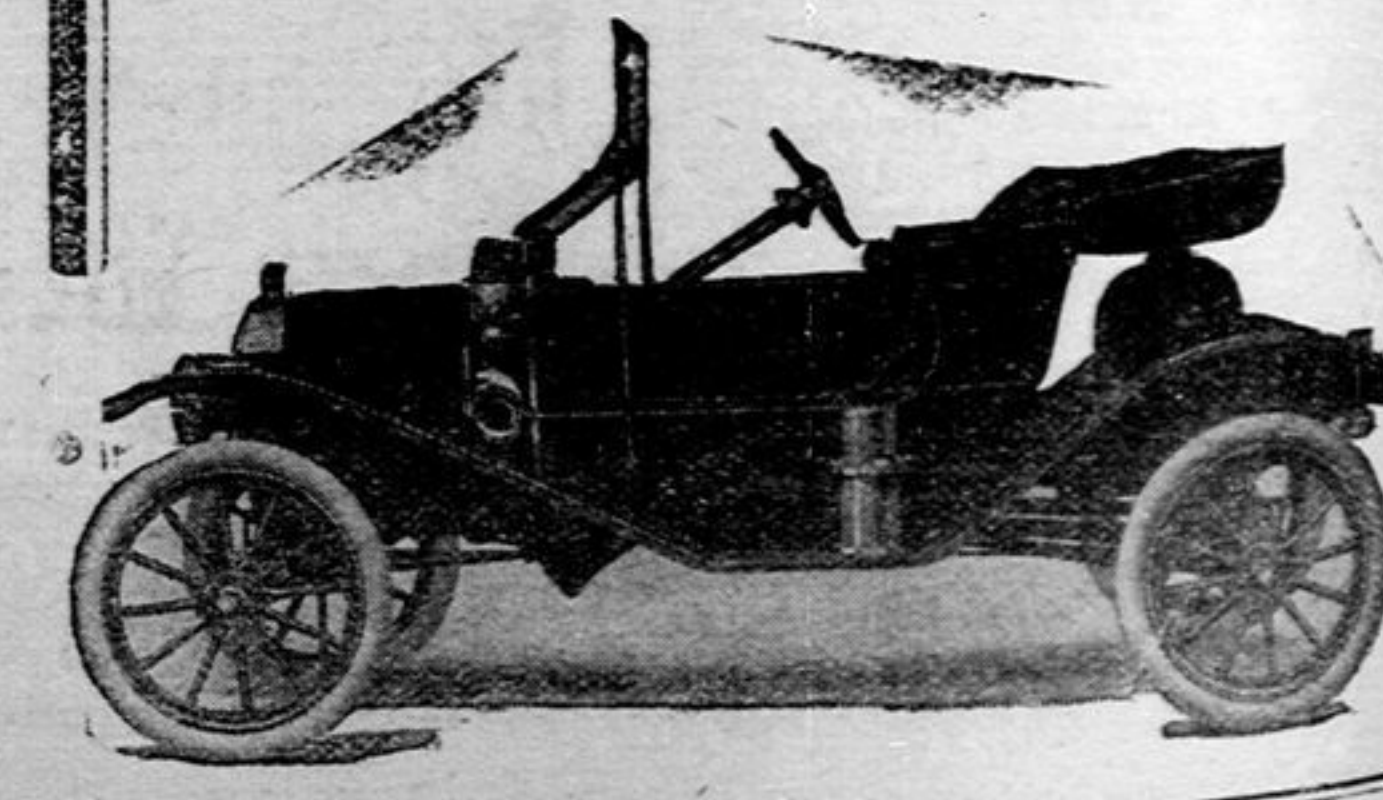
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ADVERTISE IN THE POST

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