

PAGE 2.
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THAT WESTERN TOUR

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on his tour West presently, will make short work of some of the allegations that are being freely put forward by his opponents in Manitoba. It is being said by the Conservative press in that province that Sir Wilfrid has persistently refused to extend the boundaries of the territory that somebody once described as looking like "a postage stamp on the map of Canada." There has been, of course, failure on the part of the Premier or his advisers to recognize the importance of Manitoba and the soundness of the contention of its people that it should be given more territory for expansion, in order that it may include certain seaports.

When the new provinces to the westward were organized in 1905, there was considerable disappointment because those most interested had not agreed at the same time what was to be done in the case of Manitoba. The Dominion government at that time was willing to proceed with the enlargement of the smaller province, but could not do so without the assistance of the Manitoba legislature, and as there was no concurrent action, delay was unavoidable. In 1871 the Imperial Parliament passed a statute providing for "the establishment of provinces in the Dominion of Canada," the third section of which is as follows:

"The Parliament of Canada may from time to time, with the consent of the Legislature of any province of the said Dominion, increase, diminish or otherwise alter the limits of such province, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the said Legislature, and may, with the like consent, make provision respecting the effect and operation of any such increase or diminution or alteration of territory in relation to any province affected thereby."

This is the law on the point involved. The same statute, by its sixth section, makes the Parliament of Canada unable to change the provisions of the Canadian Act of 1870, under which the province of Manitoba was created, and there was therefore no good course open except that which Sir Wilfrid pursued, some time ago, when he called into conference representatives of all the provinces for the purpose of discussing and arriving at some fair conclusion regarding the matter of provincial boundaries generally. On that occasion it was settled that Quebec should be so enlarged as to absorb the part of Labrador that belongs to Canada, and that Manitoba and Ontario should divide between them that part of Keewatin between Nor-

thern Saskatchewan and Northern Ontario, the division to follow a line which was then agreed upon by all parties.

That was as far as the Premier of Canada could go, and had the Manitoba Legislature, which Premier Roblin has for some years controlled, passed the necessary current legislation, the extension of Manitoba's boundaries would long ago have been a settled fact. Therefore western Conservatives thunder about "Sir Wilfrid's persistent refusal" to expand Manitoba's area, and the "fight Premier Roblin has been making over boundary extension" is not likely to prove effective once Sir Wilfrid and the speakers who are going with him have an opportunity to present in the West the simple truth about the matter.

The boundary question is, of course an interesting question in Manitoba, which is both progressive and ambitious, and which is rapidly acquiring a great population; but there are other questions in which Manitoba is also keenly interested, and one of them is Premier Roblin's connection with a certain sand contract

THE GROWTH OF RUSSIA

No regular census of the population of the vast Russian Empire, or of any portion of it, has been taken for many years, but at times estimates are made, and with so much care that they came within a very narrow margin of the exact truth. Such an estimate has just been made and the results have been published. The total population is placed at 160,095,200, which indicates a greater ratio of growth than might be expected in a land of primitive sanitation and high mortality.

Unlike most other countries, the growth of Russia has been more through territorial conquest and annexation than by births, though, perhaps, it would be more correct to say that such was the case down to the middle of the last century. In 1722 the population of the then empire was only 14,000,000 and by the end of that century its population had more than doubled. But even at the end of the Napoleonic area the population was 45,000,000, which, however, was nearly double that of France then. Then it acquired large populous territories, and by 1859 it has increased in population to 74,000,000. Since that date its territorial acquisitions have not been so very important, and so its increase in population has depended more upon the excess of births over deaths.

The first (and latest) real census of Russia was taken in 1897 and showed 129,209,297 persons in the empire, not including Finland, which it is estimated would have made the population 3,000,000 more. At that time the increase in population appears to have been about 33,000,000, or over 26 per cent in thirteen years. Three years ago an estimate of the population was taken, and placed it at 152,009,200, not including Finland—an increase of 5,000,000 in that period. Now as we have said, another estimate places the population of the empire at 160,095,200. While the death rate is enormously high, being 30 per 1000 a year, the birth rate is phenomenal, being 48 per 1000—a yearly surplus of 18 births over deaths per 1000.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE

Edward Blake passed through Montreal the other day on his way to Murray Bay, where he has been accustomed to spend his summers. The Montreal Herald took advantage of the occasion to pay the following tribute to a man about whom but little is heard these days "The influence that Mr. Blake exerted upon the community during the time he was in public life may be the best understood, it is just possible, as we get further away from the period of his activities. He was, it may be said without exaggeration, the big man of his day in Canada, not merely the chief figure in his own profession, but the one to whom all Canada would naturally point as their biggest man, the choice specimen by

which they would want the country to be judged. If we were asked nowadays to make such a choice, the choice itself would be difficult, and it would probably run to men whose chief distinction in the last resort, is that they acquired great wealth or are acquiring it. They influence their time profoundly. The country is trying to live up to their public and private example. And what is learned is very different from the gospel of the earlier day. High ideals, love of justice, fair and generous dealings, rigid self dependence, personal integrity and intellect incorruptible, plain living, high thinking, freely given effort for the general good, these are what will be remembered of the time when Mr Blake stood out as a great Canadian at work. Many of these qualities are now unfashionable, some of them are cultivated only by stealth. But it is quite certain that their day will return. May he live to see it." The tribute is an intelligent as it is cordial, and it is well deserved.

TEMPERANCE WAVE IN SCOTIA

Many admirers of "Caledonia, stern and wild," find it hard to dissociate the whiskey industry from its scenic grandeur, its instinct for thrift and its atmosphere of poetry and romance. They are apt to balk at the notion of a change in the drinking habits of the convivial Scots. But such a change is now taking place, and there are facts and figures to prove it. Recent cables inform us that the "Land O' Cakes" is in the firm grip of a temperance wave. This is not the first result of a "dry" movement. Prohibitionists have been busy in Scotland time out of mind, but they made little progress so long as whiskey was cheap. It was the much abused Budget that turned the trick in favor of temperance by raising the price of ardent spirits.

There has been a marked decrease in crime in Scotland during the past year, says the Chicago British American. This is one of the best possible indications that the country is becoming temperate. The typical Scot may be "canny" but it takes cheap whiskey to make him criminal. The Budget has put whiskey on the list of luxuries and the working class of both sexes has been forced into sobriety. As a result the jails are being depopulated.

"Until the first week of May, 1910" the Prison Commission reports, "the prison population was actually higher than in the previous year, but ever since it has been from 500 to 600 low. The decrease for the first four months in the convictions for drunkenness in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee, was 735, for the next four months, 2,993 and for the third period 3,237."

Scottish theologians have championed the idea of "original sin," more tenaciously than most others, and yet the Scottish character has less native viciousness in its make-up than any we know of. "John Barley corn" has always been the worst enemy of this splendid race of pioneers and pathfinders. If the Budget has been afore-ordained to annihilate this old foe of right living, all lovers of the land of Burns will rejoice.

AT THE HAGUE

Perhaps some of the cablegrams regarding the progress of the argument before the Hague Tribunal in which the Newfoundland fishery question is being thrashed out, would be more readily understood if some of the leading facts were recalled, remarks the St. John Telegraph. The real question before the court is, of course the interpretation of the treaty of 1818. The men who framed that treaty would have been surprised, doubtless, if they had been told that some of its provisions were ambiguous, but they could not possibly foresee present conditions, when much territory that they thought without value and many waters that they considered useless have now assumed very great importance. They saw only a great expanse of practically waste country, but to-day the old imaginary boundary line becomes an all important division between prosperous, growing

aggressive, ambitious nations. Mr. McGrath, the well-known Newfoundland publicist, has thus summed up the issues involved:

"The first point to decide is what is meant by the word 'inhabitants.' Can vessels flying the American flag employ fisherman not alone residing in the United States, but who may be shipped into Canadian ports or on the high seas off the Newfoundland board, beyond territorial jurisdiction? Newfoundland holds that none but genuine 'inhabitants' of the Republic residing in that country and shipped at an American port can be employed while America takes the position that the flag covers all who may be on board.

The second point that arises is, what is meant by the liberty to take fish 'in common' with British subjects. An American fishing vessel and their crews, operating in Newfoundland waters, bound by the local regulations that may be made from year to year by the Island Parliament? Newfoundland contends that they are so bound, but the United States maintains that any such regulations must be by joint agreement, dictated solely with the object of preserving the fisheries, as if the colony were conceded the right to make regulations of itself, it could so frame them as to destroy the value of the liberty granted to American subjects by the treaty.

The third question arising is as to whether inhabitants of the United States are required to report at custom houses, pay light or other duties, or be subject to any similar regulations. Newfoundland contends that she is entitled to require that vessels of every nationality entering her waters, must report at custom houses, and as they participate in the benefits of her lighthouses and other service, should pay light and harbor and similar dues, whereas the United States maintains that American fishing vessels are under no obligations.

The fourth question is as to where the three marine miles of the coasts, bays, creeks or harbors mentioned in the treaty of 1818 are to be measured from. This rises once more the 'headland' question on which these will doubtless now be a definite pronouncement. Britain maintains that territorial jurisdiction extends seaward for three miles from a line drawn from the outer headlands, no matter how wide the bay that is enclosed may be, and the United States on the other hand, maintains that the three mile limit, should follow the sinuosities of the coast.

The fifth question involved is whether Americans have the right to fish in the bays, harbors and creeks of Newfoundland and the Magdalen Islands, as they admittedly have on the coast of Labrador. Newfoundland still maintains that they have not, on the ground that the differing phraseology implies a difference in the liberties conceded, whereas the United States contends that the admitted practise since the treaty of 1818 was negotiated has been for Americans to fish in these inlets.

The arbitrators are five in number, one of whom represents Great Britain and one for the United States and the others being foreigners. The president of the tribunal is a foreigner. Very great interest attaches to the decision that shall be arrived at. There has been nearly a century of controversy over the question; but we assume that the verdict, whatever it may be, will be accepted in good faith by both parties.

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AUGUST 1st.

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Pascoe Bros. OAKWOOD

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Balance of our stock must be sold in that time, below are only a few of the many bargains we are offering.

10c for Men's Ties, good value at 25c; and 25c for regular 50c line.

25c will purchase Corsets, regularly sold at 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

50c for Men's Shirts, now sold for less than 75c and \$1.00.

\$1.00 will purchase Boots, worth from \$1.25 to \$2.00 for men, women, boys and girls.

Men's Pants and Overalls, \$1.25 line for \$1.00, \$1.00 line for 85c, 75c line, 60c.

Ginghams, 10c; extra good value at 12c

Winter Underwear for men and women below to-day's wholesale price.

Prints, some extra good patterns, 12c for 17c, 12c for 10c, 10c for 7c.

Silks, all lines clearing at cost.

Laces and embroideries, extra values in good patterns.

97 piece Dinner Sets for \$7.50 and \$8.50 choice patterns.

Fancy China Salad or Fruit Dish, regularly sold at \$1.25 and \$1.50 for only 90c. Many odd pieces of china at less than cost.

The above is only a limited list of our special offers. A visit to our store will convince you of the genuineness of these bargains.

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