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**OUR EQUALITY OF STATUS**

Once more there has been a debate in the House of Commons on the question of Canada's status within the Empire. There are two different schools of thought in relation to this question of Canada's constitutional position. One school holds that the standing of Canada is inferior to that of the Motherland, in that, while Great Britain can declare war, Canada has not the power to do so, and also asserts that the existence of a number of laws on our statute books, such as the Colonial Validity Act, and the fact that we have no power to alter the British North America Act are further proofs of our inferiority. The opposite school proclaims that the status of Canada as co-equal with Great Britain and every other nation of the British Empire was determined at the last Imperial Conference and placed beyond dispute.

Both schools are right; both are wrong. Each party to the argument is seeing the matter only from its own angle, but nobody can correctly see a many-sided question from one angle alone. Canada has not the power to declare war, it is true, and that laws remain on our statute books which more or less keep us subservient to Great Britain, is also true, nor have we the power to change the British North America Act. Yet it is equally true that our "equality of status" was formally and for all time recognized and proclaimed at the last Imperial Conference. There should be no disagreement on these points.

The right angle to take on the question of Canada's constitutional position is that our position within the Empire was settled, were it ever in doubt, on the fields of France and Belgium, and sealed with the blood of our sons. We were then the equals in stature, if not of statutes, of the Motherland and every other Dominion. The mere fact of a law existing that defines our powers and outlines the obligations we bear to one another in different parts of our wide-flung country has no more bearing on the question of our equal status than in ordinary life our parents' marriage lines have power to deny their children manhood or womanhood when grown up. When children have grown up they are men and women, even without parental marriage certificates. Canada has grown up; she has her equality of status inherent within herself just as children, while still remaining children, also become men and women, automatically.

As to making war, Canada does not want to make war with any other country. If she said, she would probably make war, but pray God she may never feel any need to do so. The laws that remain on our statute books which appear to still tie us to the Motherland are not working any harm to anybody and are virtually dead letters. Let them die or live; it matters not. When children grow up to manhood and womanhood and set up housekeeping for themselves they are quite independent of the folks. But there are still laws that govern their relationships; the laws of kinship, of love, sentiment, and filial duty. There are even laws that provide for parents still being responsible for their grown-up children and vice versa. We cannot renounce kinship if we would. Canada does not want to do so, nor does the Motherland desire to get rid of us. It is all working very well, indeed. Why disturb ourselves with philosophical disputations about it? The Empire is one and Canada lives and moves and has its being within the Empire; equal and free, thank God.

**THE COST OF LIVING**

The monthly report of the federal department of labor provides some interesting figures regarding the cost of living. Taking a list of twenty-nine staple articles of food which are used by practically all families, and taking five as the size of the average family, the department compares costs for the present time, for 1920 and 1914. It is found that these articles at the present time cost the average family \$10.87 a week. For the same week in 1920, they cost \$15.99, but for the same period in 1914, before the war, the cost was \$7.51 per week.

These figures provide an interesting view of the fluctuations of the cost of living in Canada. There has been a substantial decrease in living costs since 1920, but the level is still somewhat higher than it was in 1914, which marked the beginning of the war and caused the sharp increase in living costs. Possibly it is too much to expect that the cost of living will ever drop to the 1914 level, for it is true that living standards have been improved since then, and production costs today are much higher than they were in pre-war days.

It would also be interesting, however, to note the fluctuations in wage scales since 1914, and in comparison with 1920. The department does not provide figures in that regard, but it should be possible to have data covering the wages which were in effect when living costs were at their peak eight years ago, and the wages which are being paid today. The general impression might be that living costs have dropped more rapidly than the wage scales, and, in some trades, wages today are actually higher than in 1920. To what extent this is true however, is uncertain, and readers must judge by their own experience as to whether wages have dropped in proportion to the lower costs of living.

**IF YOU HAD ONE WISH**

If you had only one wish in the world what would you wish for? Major Verney, in his biography of the Prince of Wales, says that when the Prince was asked what he would choose for one wish, he replied, "A day entirely to myself." There is something pathetic, perhaps about the Prince's answer, yet it reveals a philosophical turn of mind that few would imagine him possessing.

What would you wish for, if you had only one wish and knew that your wish would be gratified? Health, wealth, fame, opportunity, love, how great is your choice. The boy wants to be a motorman on a street car; the man would like to be a boy again. The average little girl dreams of being a mother some day; the mother wishes she were a child once more. Most of us want to be something different from what we are or to possess something we have not got.

Perhaps the best wish of all we can make is that we may find our right work in life and have the opportunity to do it. No more round pegs in square holes, or square pegs in round holes, if this happy condition could be brought about. Some day, in a more efficiently organized commonwealth, every man and woman will have their right work to do. The poet will not be tied to the draper's counter; the merchant will not be a truck driver. The woman who loves children will be able to serve God in motherhood without the carking fear of poverty.

Let us all wish our wishes and dream our dreams; who knows but some day they will come true; But wish the right things, the good things, the true things only. Desire them, imagine them as existing, and it may be you shall bring them into manifestation.

**THE EDITOR'S REVENGE**

The Beeton World recently published a note which must have caused a sympathetic smile to enlighten the countenance of more than one other editor—and which would undoubtedly be relished also by mer-

chants and other sufferers. This is the paragraph:

"Last week we received a lengthy and glowing obituary of a man who took his home paper for a number of years and refused to pay for it. We haven't published this eulogy of the departed, because the notes of the heavenly harp when played by a professional deadbeat are distasteful to the unappreciative ears of honest people."

That's telling them, all right! And in a little village like Beeton, probably a lot of readers were able to guess the identity of the "professional deadbeat," whoever he may have been. Anyway, the editor had his revenge and after that article appeared, he probably didn't feel so badly about the loss of his ten, or twenty or more dollars.

But even so, we hope the Beeton editor sends in his bill and collects the back subscription from the estate, although the deadbeat seldom leaves enough for his funeral expenses.—Fergus News Record.

**"Way Back in Liberal Files"**

**DO YOU REMEMBER  
This Week of 1890**

When at Thornhill a very exciting croquet match took place on the ground of Mr. A. Craig, between two fours, captained by Mr. A. Craig and Mr. Ed. Francis, after playing three hours Mr. Francis four won by a few points.

When the Richmond Hill Baseball club was re-organized in the office in connection with the Fire Proof store, with the following officers:—Hon. President, Rev. G.N. Rutledge; President, Chas. Pilgrim; Vice-President, Alfred Penrose; Secretary Treasurer, C. McLean; Captain, W. D. Atkinson; Committee of Management: C. Trevelyan, (chairman), F. Soules, H. Gibbs, J. Glass, Jay Sanderson, F. Sims. The club was opened for challenges. Thornhill preferred.

When at the residence of the brides father by the Rev. J. M. Simpson, J. H. Kirby of Maple was united in marriage to Jennie youngest daughter of Wm. Harding, esq., Richmond Hill.

When you could buy at O.J. Browns the following: 8 lbs rolled oats for 25c; 17 lbs of sugar for \$1.00; 2 lbs. of cheese for 25c; 3 lbs. of Sodas for 25c; 1 lb of splendid tea for 25c; 1 can of turkey for 25c; 1 can of pigs feet for 25c; 1 2 lb tin corned beef for 25c; 10 lbs. corn-meal for 15c; 3 cans apples for 25c.

**DO YOU REMEMBER  
This Week of 1896**

When a public meeting in the interest of Mr. John Brown, the patron candidate for West York, was held in the Victoria Hall, Thornhill. The chair was filled by Mr. I. Chapman, J.P., and the speakers were Mr. E. H. Sisley, the candidate and Mr. R.O. Harvey represented Mr. N. C. Wallace.

When the following directors were present at a meeting of the agricultural Society: W.H. Clubine, T. Lloyd J. Palmer, P. Boynton, J. T. McElroy, I. Crosby, T. F. McMahon, T. Palmer, W. H. Pugsley, John Clark, J. H. Sanderson and the secretary, H. A. Nicholls.

When the first lacrosse match of the season was played in the park here, when the home team defeated the Elms, of Toronto, by 5 goals to 2. The following are the names of the

Richmond Hill team:—Goal, P. Powell Point, J. McConaghy; Cover point, J. Glass; Defence field, F. Sims, Alf Powell, W. Savage; Centre, C. Chamberlain; Home field, J. Ough, R. Glass W. Trench; Outside home, A. Shierk; Inside home, W. Powell; Field captain W. Wiley; Referee, G. Derry.

When the following stood first in their classes at the Richmond Hill Public School. Fourth class, Velma Brydon; Senior III, Frank Storey; Junior III, Mable Smith; Senior II, Flossie Cooper; Junior IIA, Charles Glover; Junior IIB, Starr McMahon; Senior Part II, Willie Lindsay; Junior Part II, Frank McDonald.

When the session of the Thornhill Presbyterian Church, was increased by the addition of Messrs Robert Cox and Thos. Parker to its membership. They were ordained to the office by the Rev. Mr. Grant.

**DO YOU REMEMBER  
This Week of 1907**

When the following stood first in their forms at Richmond Hill High School:—Form IV, G. Dickenson; Form III, W. Carleton; Form II, A. Calhoun; Form I, Jean Scott.

When the annual meeting of the Epworth League was held with Rev. A. P. Brace presiding:—Hon. Pres., Rev. A.P. Brace; President, Miss Trench; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Sloan; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. R. Shaw; 3rd Vice-President, Miss Switzer; 4th Vice-President, Miss Mable Smith, Supt. Junior League, Mrs. C. P. Wiley; Rec.-Secretary, Mr. C. McDonald; Cor.-Secretary, Mrs. Switzer; Treasurer, Mr. Lorne Patterson; Librarian, Miss Olive Kinnee; Organist, Miss Ida Glass.

When a very pleasing event took place at Maple, when Miss Margaret McDonald was married to Mr. Jas. A. MacMurchy, of the seventh concession The ceremony was performed by Rev. W.G. Back.

When at Elgin Mills, Jacob Atkinson passed away in his 80th year.

When the following stood first in their classes at the Langstaff public school. IV Mary Lowery; III Nellie Page; Senior II, Leslie Richards; Junior II, Ellsworth Weldrick; Senior Part II, Dennis White; Junior Part II, Lornie Weldrick; Senior Part I, Ethel Banks; Junior Part I, Ida Richards.

**York Market**

There was buttermilk at 5c. a glass at the North Toronto Market this week, Imperial pint jars of cream were selling at 45c, five cents for the jar. Butter was pretty generally 45c a pound as it has been for some time, though one man has consistently asked 50c a pound.

Egg prices continue from 30 to 45c with duck eggs at 60c a dozen.

Broilers are getting to the roasting stage but at 60c a pound, they are still distinctly in the luxury class.

Home baking was to be found in interesting variety; tea biscuits at 20c a dozen, buns at 25 and 30c; doughnuts at 30c; cakes of various sorts and sizes, variously priced. Jars of nice looking marmalade were 25c.

Very attractive with its low glass dish of violets and its iced cakes was the stall presided over by members of the parish guild of St. John's Church, York Mills.

Masses of forget-me-nots made up in some degree for deficiencies of blue sky out of doors. Big, closely filled pots of them were 30c. Nice begonias were 30c each.

Plants, too, all ready for the garden, included tomato, nicotine, phlox, asters, snapdragon, peonias, cosmos, verbenas at 20c a dozen.

From nature's own gardens came cowslips at 5c a bunch; violets, yellow and blue, at 5c.

Bunches of lilacs this morning—white and purple, were offered at 10c.

For the roast of lamb there was mint—5c a bunch; green onions were 5c a bunch and three bunches for 10c; watercress three bunches for 10c.

Strawberry rhubarb was 5c a bunch for extra-sized stuff, and 3 for 10c.

The winter vegetables have almost disappeared from the market, but there was a fair supply of potatoes at 25c a six quart basket.



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