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DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

Durham, April 2, 1903.

SANCTUM SIFTINGS.

INIQUITOUS POSTAL REGULATIONS.

Sir William Mulock is again getting a great deal of cheap glory from the Grit press for having secured the lowering of the postage on newspapers going to and from the Mother country. The rate henceforward will be the same as within the Dominion. Any credit that justly falls to Sir William for bringing Great Britain and her colonies into closer relations on all Imperial matters, we gladly accord him. That he has done considerable work as willingly grant, but that all he has done has been in the interest of Canadians, we do not admit. The cheapening of postage to the few, who may send a letter or paper once in a while to the home land is sufficient to keep Sir William's name blazoned in large type in the party press, and probably he is satisfied with that sort of glory. But the citizens of Canada should know that although the postage on several classes of mail to Great Britain has been reduced there have been several serious measures nearer home. On the first of last July a considerable number of such increases were made. One of these of considerable importance to a large number of Canadians is the doubling of postage on books. The rate used to be one cent per every four ounces. Now it is "one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof." This makes the sending of books by post almost prohibitive and is a hardship to Canadians which is not counterbalanced by any imperial reduction.

Another serious increase was made on book and newspaper manuscript and on government and municipal documents. The rate was changed from one cent per two ounces to "two cents for the first four ounces or fraction thereof, and one cent for each additional two ounces or fraction thereof."—This looks quite innocent and was doubtless intended to "look" as harmless as possible. But notice that "or fraction thereof." As the vast majority of such documents or manuscripts will be under the two ounce weight, the postage on these lighter packages and on the fractional parts of the heavier ones is actually doubled.

Again, on seeds, bulbs, grafts, samples of merchandise, and other things of like nature the rate has been increased from one cent per four ounces, or fraction thereof to "two cents for the first four ounces, or fraction thereof and one cent for each additional two ounces or fraction thereof." Here again it will be noticed that the rate is practically more than doubled.

One more example may be given, on maps, drawings, photographs, sheet music, printed forms, etc., the rate has been increased from one cent per two ounces, to "two cents for the first four ounces or fraction thereof and one cent, etc." One curious result is that the price of sheet music or a photograph, under a certain weight, can be sent to London, England, for one cent while it will cost two cents to send the same parcel to Varney. If this is not a ridiculous state of affairs, then it is hard to imagine one.

If Sir William's imperial aspirations were not fraught with such serious consequences to the patient plodding tax-payers of Canada he would be accounted a great statesman and his legislation would be productive of larger blessings to his fellow countrymen at large. Any financier can pile up a surplus, if the millions are will-

ingly or unwillingly taxed for it, and it is high time now that the tax payers of Canada who are groaning under the load of an unjust burden should unite as one man and cry out for justice.

MR. GAMEY'S STATEMENT.

Before the division of the House on Friday night last, the following statement was read by Mr. Gamey, with strong emphasis:

Mr. Speaker: The statement which I made on the floor of this House was that of a layman who desired to present in his own words and on his own responsibility as a member of this House a question of privilege I made my statement. This statement involved a charge of conspiracy on the part of members of the Government—a conspiracy on the part of members of the Government—a conspiracy on the part of these gentlemen with the other persons referred to in my statement and others to get me to leave my party and throw in my lot with the Liberals. That is my charge. It so stands before this House.

Some of the accused now want to alter my charge, and to present it as being made against the Hon. Mr. Stratton alone. This is not my charge and I do not propose that men against whom my charge has been made shall alter it and put into my mouth a charge different from that I made to the House.

The charge that I made I made upon my responsibility as a member of this House. I have weighed and realized fully what this responsibility is, and I am willing to accept it. I am prepared to prove this charge before a committee of this House. I charge a conspiracy on the part of members of the Government with other members mentioned in my former statement and this. I am prepared to substantiate this.

But if persons against whom my charge has been made alter it and vary it so that it ceases to be my charge, and put something in its place which limits and makes an accusation against the Hon. Mr. Stratton alone, then I repudiate such action.

Surely the position I take is definite and cannot be misunderstood, and I leave it to this House to deal with.

MR. RICHARDSON PLEADS FOR DURHAM.

From the Hansard Report of March 25th, we notice our member, Mr. Richardson, has been putting in a plea in the interest of Durham. The following paragraphs are reported after his name in a discussion on the erection of public buildings in towns of over two thousand of a population:

"Since the Minister of Public Works is receiving appeals for public buildings in towns of over 2,000 of a population, I wish to put in an appeal for the town of Durham in my constituency. It must be known to many members of this House that this is one of the most thriving and prosperous towns in Ontario, rapidly increasing in industries and population. It is very much in need of a public building of the character we are now discussing."

Again he says:

"Mr. Chairman, I think in this connection it would be fair to call the attention of the government to the policy of the Public Works Department in expending large sums of money in small towns just emerging from the condition of villages, on buildings altogether too ornate, too expensive and too monumental for the purpose for which they are designed and which, in fact, are more ornamental than useful. In this way a gross injustice is done to the agricultural portion of the community many of whom have to travel two, three or four miles to get their mail matter when a large amount of expenditure is made in erecting these ornate and expensive buildings in little towns, merely emerging from villagehood. If favors are intended for towns of 2,000 or more, I put in a claim for a town in my own constituency; yet, I am strongly in favor of some move being made by the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) looking to the establishment of a rural mail delivery system. This, I believe, would probably be a very expensive undertaking and one that the department could not enter upon completely at the beginning; yet some experimental steps might be taken in order to find out what the cost would be in extending it over the whole country. I believe that at any rate we should take some measures to show our disapprobation of the practice of erecting these costly structures, far more costly than requirements warrant."

THE POSITION OF LIBERALS.

A good deal of success is attending the efforts of certain Liberal papers and politicians to inflame party feeling against the Opposition in the Legislature and to arouse party enthusiasm for Mr. Ross and his associates. They know well that if they can flog the party into a rage against Gamey and Whitney and the political

organization to which they belong there will be much less need to fear the effects of any damaging facts which the investigation of the Gamey charges may disclose, and can proceed the more boldly to defeat the objects of the enquiry. A familiar complaint is that Conservatives are seeking to make political capital out of the situation. This is quite likely. It is the habit of politicians to make capital out of the mistakes and crimes of their opponents. Conservatives are now doing exactly what Liberals would do, and always have done, under similar circumstances. When Langevin was undone, when Bykert was trapped, when Ministers and officials were involved in the scandalous departmental revelations of 1891, the attitude of Liberals was not very different from the present attitude of Conservatives. Such revelations prove that improper influences are used in elections and the administration of affairs corrupted for partisan purposes, and it is not surprising that the victims of such practices should feel an unholy joy when the operators are exposed.

The outcry against any prejudgment of the case is of the same specious texture. The question is of a strictly public character, affecting the public morals and the character of Parliament, and the right of public judgment in the case is absolute. It is not the habit of legislators under attack to withhold their defence when the material for satisfactory defence exists. Not once in our Parliamentary history have politicians sought refuge in an outside commission except when the evidence of guilt was practically conclusive. The transfer to Mr. Gamey, under the circumstances, of the patronage for Manitoulin, was a vicious and indecent transaction, and utterly condemns the Government. It was a direct purchase, and if no cash passed, there is nothing to be said except that the Provincial Secretary, or whoever acted for the Government, made an uncommonly good bargain. But whether the facts now before the Province be conclusive or otherwise, it is at least fair to ask Liberals in the Legislature and in the country if they think the Government is proceeding wisely in sending Mr. Gamey's charges to a Commission. Surely, in view of all the history of the party, nothing but guilt can be argued from this manoeuvre. The accused will name the Commission, determine its scope and authority, and order the method of its procedure. It seems to be already quite clear that pertinent evidence cannot be submitted under the instructions which the Commission will receive. That will constitute a legitimate grievance for the Opposition. It will destroy the chief value of a verdict of acquittal. If the judges accept instructions which limit the scope of the inquiry, or permit less freedom of investigation than the Committee on Privileges and Elections affords, Conservatives will feel that the Bench has intervened to protect a party Government, and that respect for the judiciary, which is so vital to the sound administration of justice, will be impaired. Furthermore, two judges do not constitute a proper tribunal for the work to be done. If there should be disagreement, the whole business will be futile, if not positively mischievous. The Bench will be helplessly involved in the quarrels of rival politicians. If there is to be a Commission, there should be guarantee of an authoritative finding. Here the tribunal is fatally defective. The point deserves from the public far more serious consideration than it has yet received.

There must be Liberals in the Legislature, as there are thousands in the constituencies, who desire only a thorough investigation, and an honest finding. It is of little consequence to such people whether the Liberal party is in or out of office. They cannot afford for the sake of one Minister, or of half a dozen Ministers, to have the party record besmirched, and all the precedents and traditions of Liberalism set at defiance. It may be awkward to pass judgment upon a colleague in the Committee on Privileges and Elections, but they will find it more awkward to defend grave Ministerial misconduct, while they will not be helped at all if the Commission should return a divided and inconclusive judgment. Already gossip is busy with the official connections and emoluments of the judges named by the Government. They must suffer cruel injustice in consequence of the heated partisan rage which the situation has developed. Why should they be dragged into the quarrels of politicians when the work in hand is within the proper purview of the Legislature and its committee?

Ontario has treated the Liberal party with unprecedented generosity. Thirty years of office should satisfy its utmost ambitions. It has a record as a governing organization in this Province of which it need not be ashamed. It should aim to be remembered in history by the fruitful work of its days of vigor, rather than by the scandals of its time of weakness and collapse. It had better go out with its flag flying and its foot upon the neck of corruption, than struggle to obtain a few more years of office by miserable compromises and weak abandonment of its higher professions and traditions. There must be, we repeat, Liberals in the Legislature who have no other desire than that Mr. Gamey's charges should be clearly established or thoroughly disproved. They cannot hope that Conservatives who are to be robbed of their undoubted right to have a Parliamentary Committee will accept

the judgment of a commission limited in its scope and named by the accused Ministers. They know that in the past Liberals have refused to go before such commissions. It is not within their right to blame Conservatives if they should now do likewise. As to the course the Opposition will take we have no information, nor have we any advice to offer. We know only what is now the duty of Liberals in the Legislature, and how grievously the attitude of Mr. Ross and his colleagues must disappoint the great mass of the Liberal party, however well they may conceal their chagrin, and however they may be lashed into resentment toward Mr. Gamey and the party which stands to profit by his operations. If half a dozen Liberals in the assembly will stand out from their associates and boldly assert the authority of Parliament to guard its own integrity, and the duty of Liberals to respect the higher ideals of Liberalism, they will do much to give tone and vitality to public opinion, and in the final result greatly serve the true interests of the Liberal party.—Toronto News.

THE MAN ON THE STREET.

"A chief's among ye takin' notes, An' faith he'll prent it."—BURNS.

IS THE EARTH ROUND?

Tell it not out to earth that we have yet in Durham, citizens, well advanced in life, who have in the past filled important civil positions, citizens who claim to be abreast of the times, who presume now and again to direct or obstruct public opinion, and endeavor as far as in them lies to clog the wheels of progress, and yet withhold, do not believe that coal is of vegetable origin—that it is "bottled sunshine" as the scientists say. Wonders will never cease, but this sublime ignorance makes us sometimes wonder "where we are at." Doubtless these good people still believe that the earth is a huge flat slab, resting on the back of a huge white elephant, and this again on the back of a huge land tortoise, and this again on—well, on what?

PORT OF ENTRY NEEDED.

Is it not time that Durham had a Port of Entry for the admission of foreign goods, and a collector of customs of its own? Our town is situated in the centre of a large agriculture country, and now that our Cement Works and other factories are established we are likely to be a manufacturing centre as well. Other industries are asking for privileges for establishing amongst us and should the oil and gas wells prove as successful as the experts predict, there is surely a field for larger consumption of foreign goods than ever before. The citizens of the town and vicinity have borne patiently, but not without complaint, the inconvenience and trouble, often unnecessarily imposed by the collectors at outlying Ports of Entry, especially Listowel, in recent years through which most of our imported goods come. Instances can easily be furnished. It is a pity the whole of South Grey must be supplied through officers out side the County. If our Station Agent were appointed Collector, and the work done on Commission or on salary the cost would be insignificant. It is time our citizens were waking to the requirements of our town and demanding what we surely are entitled to have—A Port of Entry right here in Durham, with a local collector. Our Council should petition the Government at once for this much needed convenience. The citizens will most cheerfully increase such a petition to any length if they have the opportunity.

BUREAU OF ENTERTAINMENT.

From the large number of poor and mediocre public entertainments presented here during the past winter, it would seem time to call for some controlling agency to regulate the entire show business and put it on a better basis. At present the public has no means of knowing the character of a show except from press notices of the performances in other places. These, unfortunately, are not always correct, and even when correct are not always available. The Advance Agent of a travelling troupe comes along and two or three weeks ahead engages to perform under the auspices of some local society. Even if press notices are unfavorable elsewhere the local papers are loath to quote them to the injury of the local society. Thus the business goes on and prospers, while the innocent public have to pay the piper. Were it not for the danger of paternalism it would be a good thing to have all public entertainments under government control. All governments, however, should be for the protection of the public, and since entertainment is a human need that requires regulating, as is fully recognized in many countries, there should be some bureau of entertainment incorporated by law, which would license all travelling shows, and thus protect the public against the fake performances now too common on every platform in the country. It should be a punishable offence for any travelling company, except in cases of illness or accident to give the public less than they promise through their advance agents or their advertisements.

Seeds! Seeds!

Import of Seeds from England early this month.

OATS: Scottish Chief Oats, said to be the best and most productive grown.

GRANULATED SUGAR! GRANULATED

Granulated Sugar \$4.20 100 pounds in Bbl. lots. This offer will be for a few days. Sugars have advanced in price, and buying now you will buy at Wholesale Rates.

H. PARKER, DRUGGIST AND SEEDSMAN, DURHAM.

For Dependable Goods

Our prices are right. The right price is the one that can be named on an article that's first truly described and then found so by the customer. Goods must be sold quickly, and the cost of handling reduced to the very lowest point.

These Prices will Show you Exactly what we Mean:

Children's Box Calf, buttoned and laced boots, selling price \$1.25, our price \$1.00. Our profit on each pair is very small. Volume is what makes our price possible.

Women's Fine Kid Strap Slippers, selling price \$1.25, our price \$1.00. Exceedingly neat and the saving is worth considering.

Women's Fine Kid Oxfords, selling price \$2.00, our price \$1.65. As usual what we advertise we do. See them.

A swell line of Men's Box Calf and Vici Kid Bals, selling price \$3.50, our price \$2.65. Positively high class and superior to some sold at \$4.00. They always please.

A lot of Men's Vici Kid and Box Calf Bals, selling price \$3.00, our price \$1.50. Being narrow fitters we will half the price.

Order and Repairing Our Specialties.

PEEL, THE SHOE MAN.

STRICTLY CASH SYSTEM.

Cash for Furs and Hides.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

The idea of government control or municipal control of all public franchises is rapidly gaining ground in all democratic countries. Why should it not when the government itself is of the people and for the people? It is a common saying now, among the farmers, perhaps more than among town people, probably because the farmer is the more reflective of the two, that the railway telegraph and other such companies are the governments, and act as if they owned the country. This is too true, and will every day become truer till the people rise in their might and demand that the affairs of the country be managed in the interests of its citizens in general, and not in the interests of corporations and rings formed expressly for the purpose of bleeding the country of its resources, and diverting the proceeds into their own pockets. The people have listened complacently too long to the political demagogue and the corporation plutocrat, and the

sooner they awake to the foolishness of allowing this state of things to continue the better it will be for themselves and for their country. That it will continue till the people as a whole end it is as certain as fate. No philanthropic parliament or trust will ever be formed to move in the direction of greater privileges to the unprivileged classes—the submerged nine-tenths—until made to do so by the sheer force of an unflinching determination of the people to secure their rights. Carlyle, the greatest thinker of the nineteenth century, long ago used these wholesome words:—"The practice of modern parliaments, with reporters sitting among them, and twenty-seven millions, mostly fools, listening to them, fills one with amazement." Lo also, in Canada, the practice of our Parliaments, playing to the galleries as they do, with reporters sitting among them and 500,000 mostly fools, listening to them, may well fill the reflective mind with amazement. It

(Continued on page 5.)

IMPLEMENTS

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