

THE WHIG, 75th YEAR

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Daily Whig.

WHY NOT PLAY FAIR? A commission of officers at Quebec is making a new test of what appears to be an improved Ross rifle. The thing, proper in itself, shows what prize bunglers the Laurier ministers are. They order rifles in batches of ten thousand, and then send experts to see if the weapon is a good one.

Why not play fair? Why not state the facts about the Ross rifle factory? The government has done a patriotic thing in seeking to have the small arms required by the country made at home. Sir Charles Ross has invested a lot of money in the enterprise, and if there has been any question about the quality of the rifle, the fault lies largely with the militia council. The manufacturers should be to some fixed plan, and unfortunately the council—that expensive institution which has usurped the functions of government to a large extent, and is alleged to run its business on a non-political basis—has not been able to pursue one line of action very long at a time.

LOADED UP FOR DEFEAT. The Saskatchewan legislature, now in session, proposes to have a redistribution, but Hon. Mr. Scott promises that it will be a fair one, and in all probability quite acceptable to the opposition. He is reminded, by the way, of the fault-finding of Mr. Haultain enough in the previous adjustment that gentlemen's limbs had been followed as far as possible. Mr. Scott's assurances may be accepted conditionally, and one cannot wonder. The premier of Saskatchewan may mean just what he says, but he will see the importance of giving some evidence of it in his proposals. He says he will follow the splendid example of the Laurier government, and consult the opposition upon the subject.

Mr. Whitney said the same thing, and we all know what happened. He named some liberals on a committee but he expected them to pass the government's scheme without hesitation, without a chance to reconsider them. Nor did the government reveal its hand at one time. Gradually glimpses here given of the gerrymander, and within a few hours some of the least defensible alterations were made. Eventually the whole thing became so obnoxious that even certain conservative patriots pronounced against it, and the World said there could only be one conclusion, namely, that the party was afraid to face public opinion upon the old times. Most of the Whig's readers will remember Mark Twain's story of the jumping frog. The champion jumper was left too long in the hands of a designing person, and the result was that when time for the competition came it was unable to move. It had been loaded with buckshot. Mr. Whitney's redistribution act has been loaded so as to make political competition impossible.

MEANING OF THE FIGHT. One has to go back to the discussion of home rule weeks ago to find the secret of the hostility of Mr. Redmond and his party towards the Asquith government. The leader of the nationalists had proposed a resolution and it provoked an animated debate. This debate had been carried on without a scene for some time. The opposition had declared itself to be unalterably against the proposal. The chief secretary for Ireland was in favour of some measure of local government and local legislature, because the imperial parliament could not deal with Irish problems as they arose.

It was late in the day when Mr. Asquith suggested the addition of a line to the Redmond motion, in essence that home rule was to be a contingency of national government, that the imperial parliament was to be the supreme authority, that all legislation should be subject to its approval. The solution of the Irish question lay, he thought, in a system of self-government with regard to purely local affairs. This was not what the nationalists sought. Mr. Redmond put it squarely when he said, earlier in the day: "We want no more devolution, no half-way house. We want the real thing—Irish government, with an executive responsible to it." It was Mr. Healy who voiced the disappointment of his party and made what some have regarded as a prophecy, when he said: "Today he (Mr. Asquith) is an important man; to-morrow he might be a god. But Irishmen will not worship at his shrine."

So the battle is on in earnest, and the first of the ministers to fall the blows of the Irish in a by-election is Hon. Winston Churchill, in East Manchester. He is strong as a free trader, but the Irish vote is expected to go against him. In demanding now, however, national independence for Ireland, Mr. Redmond is going further than he demanded at the outset. Local government as in Quebec or Ontario was then said to be good enough for Ireland, but Mr. Redmond repudiates that, and in so doing repudiates himself.

POLITICAL EQUITY IN QUEBEC. Mr. Leblanc expects an early provincial election in Quebec, and he has the conservative press indulge in prophecies as to his success. The theory is that the last two elections in Quebec were held close to the federal elections, and that the liberals governments helped each other. The local conservatives now have it that the Gouin government will have an early appeal to the people upon its merits, and the conservative party has "ground for hope," in the coming contest. This is the announcement of the Montreal Gazette.

It is not difficult to recall the position of the party in the last general elections. The conservative party in Quebec was so annoyed because of the dissolution of the house before they were ready for it—though all the while boasting of what they would do when the election occurred—that they refused to make a general fight for representation. The idea of the leader at that time was to let the contest go by default, and there would have been no opposition in the assembly had this fool advice been acted upon.

The opposition is weak enough as it is, and it is calculated to remain weak. The attempts that have been made to dispirit or dispossess the government have been rank failures. The only really live campaign which has been waged in the name of the party was that conducted by Mr. Bourassa in the by-election of last fall. The attorney-general, resigned his seat, as a means of vindicating his political character, and the former member for Labelle, the picturesque nephew of the great Papineau, was invited to oppose him. That was an incident of note—the political event of the last three years in Quebec—and it did not give any proof that the provincial blues were getting any stronger.

The party of seven in the legislature may be very hopeful. They could do better work if they had a few additions. An active and aggressive opposition—all that the party in Ottawa is less its dishonorable tactics—would be a good thing for Quebec, but it is a thing of which there is very little promise at the present time.

RUSHED THE JOB THROUGH. Fault has been found by the Toronto Telegram and Toronto World because Hon. Mr. MacKay did not assent to the guarantee of the Whitney government to the Canadian Northern railway, and in such terms as to make the deal impossible. The stress of their complaint has been made by Mr. MacKay in a speech which he made on Saturday in East Wellington. He is reported to have said: "No proper consideration whatever can be given by an opposition to all the matters that are rushed through in the closing hours of the session. The question of guaranteeing \$2,500,000 worth of bonds is of sufficient importance to receive special mention in the speech from the throne if it is then the intention of the ministry to make such a guarantee. If it has not at that early date been considered it is at least due the opposition, who have no opportunity of ascertaining what is discussed in the ministerial caucus, the press and the people of the province, to announce such matters some weeks before the close of the session in order that the matter may be fully understood. I have been six years in the legislature, and never during any year were so many new subjects rushed in and dealt with in the dying hours of the session as the case in that just closed. Moreover, I find now, in looking into the act of 1904, which gave the original guarantee to the Canadian Northern, or James Bay road, and comparing it with the act recently passed, that the terms of the mortgage clause in the latter are no wider than those of the former. Whatever may be said, and a very great deal may be said in favor of assisting colonization roads, there seems little justification for guaranteeing bonds to the extent of \$1,500,000 in connection with purely terminal facilities within the city of Toronto."

That statement is both concise and conclusive. Mr. MacKay was purposely kept in the dark about the scheme. He heard nothing about it, neither did his supporters, until the thing was sprung upon them, just as the legislature was closing. Protest the opposition did, but a lot of the government cared about the warnings and sterning of the liberals, when in caucus it was decided to carry the guarantee

and the government had the backing of a majority of forty-three!

WHO ARE THE ELIGIBLES? The retirement of Hartley Dewart, K.C., for the contest in South Toronto, is to be regretted and for many reasons. He is mentally constituted for legislative work, being critical, constructive, conscientious, and progressive. He is a man of pronounced ability. The Kingston people had the opportunity of hearing him discuss public questions in an election campaign, and his was a splendid review of facts and principles.

Mr. Dewart is the type of man who should be in parliament. He has no blockade with troublesome people; more of his kind were in the public assemblies there would be less of the nuisance of which Mr. Whitney complained, namely that the lobbies are blocked with troublesome people intent upon the advancement of legislation which is of doubtful quality. Mr. Dewart gives up his political ambitions because he finds that politics interferes with his professional engagements, and he is not free to let one suffer on account of the other.

The pity is that this is so. In England the sons of men who have an abundance of this world's goods serve the people as an occupation, and they have been regarded as very public spirited. In Canada the people as a whole are engrossed in the strenuous life. They are making their competence and the future of the country at the same time. The worst is not free to take up the burdens of political service, and when men go into parliament for what they can extract from it, one can realize the thing that is likely to happen. The land scandals revealed by the insurance commission is an object lesson in this respect.

EDITORIAL NOTES. Mr. Ames has not been following up his enquiry into the fishing permits, which the federal government granted. Has anything happened to his probe?

If the prorogation of the federal house occurs in June there will be an early election. The conservatives do not appear to like this, and they cannot expect to win out.

Winston Churchill is making his peace with the nationalists. After the next election he says he will be an out-and-out home ruler. The process of conversion is now going on.

Has Mr. Asquith changed his attitude on the home rule question? He was two weeks ago in favour of local government only. Mr. Redmond demanded an independent government. Have they come closer together?

Sir Adolphe Caron is no more. How the old guard is disappearing one by one? Sir Adolphe was a somewhat picturesque figure, and an able man. It was only on rare occasions, however, that he showed what was in him.

George Taylor, M.P., is prepared to sit in Ottawa until Christmas rather than that the Dominion shall prepare for a fair voters' list, where there is not one at present, Mr. Taylor's time and service must be very valuable.

Mr. Foster says he likes independent criticism. Then he has a queer way of showing it. Under the lash he writes and squirms and says some bitter things. Still as one of the wounded, as the Star remarks, he should be removed from the firing line.

The Good Dressers. Are buying Campbell Bros' nobby hats.

Highly Seasoned. Chicago News. Lot's wife became a pillar of salt, but most wives become peppery.

"Taffy." "Washington taffy." "Buyer's Washington taffy." Fresh at Gibson's Red Cross Drug Store.

Lots of women complain because they have nothing to complain of.

GOES TO REGINA.

W. J. Burton to Take Up Work in a New Field. W. J. Burton, who has been physical director at the Y.M.C.A., for the last two years, as already announced, severs his connection here, on May 1st. It will be welcome news to his many friends to know that he has received a call from the Regina Y. M. C. A., and begins his work there on June 15th.

Regina is a new association, with all the optimistic prospects of the west. They are very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Burton, as he has had a training which fits him for any field. He spent two years as assistant to Mr. Crocker, of the Central Y. M. C. A., Toronto, after serving on the leaders corps. During the last two years, he has done excellent work for the local association, and merits the advance he has made in being selected to organize the work in the Regina physical department.

VERY FIRST SIGNS OF KIDNEY TROUBLE ARE IN THE BACK.

Gives a Recipe to Prepare Valuable Mixture Which Anyone Can Prepare at Home at Small Cost.

Take care of backache. A great many cases of kidney complaint are reported about here, also bladder trouble and rheumatism. An authority once stated that pain in the back, loins or region of the kidneys is the danger signal nature hangs out to notify the sufferer that there is something wrong with the kidneys, which should receive immediate attention. Only vegetable treatment should be administered and absolutely no strongly alcoholic patent medicines, which are harmful to the kidneys and bladder.

The following prescription, while simple, harmless and inexpensive, is given and recognized as a sovereign remedy for kidney complaint. The ingredients can be obtained at any good prescription pharmacy and anyone can mix them: Compound Kargon, one ounce; Fluid Extract Blandin, one-half ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces. Shake well in a bottle and take in teaspoonful doses after each meal and at bedtime. This preparation is said to restore the natural function of the kidneys, so they will sift and strain the poisonous waste matter, uric acid, etc., from the blood, purifying it and relieving rheumatism. Backache will be relieved, the urine will be neutralized and cleared and no longer a cause of irritation, thereby overcoming such symptoms as weak bladder, painful, frequent and other urinary difficulties. This is worth trying and may prove just what many people here need.

B. A. Hotel Arrivals.

J. Chadwick, B. McKean, F. Arnold, Alex. Grey, W. McPherson, Geo. Smith, C. Simpson, of Hamilton; S. C. Brennan, St. Catharines; F. W. Fuller, Lieut.-Col. Biggar, A. R. Dur-ell, Miss M. Durell, Ottawa; H. B. Emory, Walter Harms, Virginia Keating, Carl A. Kopp, S. R. Cotton and wife, of Petrolia company; W. H. Stubbs, New York; W. Merkle, Williamsburg; F. W. Hollingsworth, Chicago; A. J. Munay, W. H. Henderson, Boston; W. Hendeheimer, D. R. Mordoff, J. R. Johnson, London; C. H. McVider, H. E. McLean, F. W. Doran, W. C. McQuillan, J. E. Bennett, E. J. Shannon, A. Bradshaw, W. Gaynor, Gordon E. Finch, R. S. Henderson, S. S. Newton, J. C. Grant, Montreal; George A. Pollock, Toronto; J. B. McMeerich, Oswego, N.Y.; Guy H. Long, Hamilton.

One Solid Week at Mullin's. Eight pounds washing soda, 10c. Eight pounds whitening, 10c. Eight three-cent packages Gillett's washing powder, 10c. Corner Johnson and Division streets.

We have the largest selection of spring suitings to choose from in the city. An inspection is solicited. Crawford & Walsh, tailors.

You can only make a woman show the white feather if white feathers happen to be the fashion.

"Spring Fever" won't catch you if you start in right now to take Abbey's Salt regularly. A dessert-spoonful, in a glass of water, every morning rids the system of all impurities—starts the liver working properly—and purifies the blood. Abbey's Salt is the best spring tonic for young and old. 25c and 60c a bottle. Abbey's Effervescent Salt

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