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THE WHIG, 75th YEAR

DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 208, 210 King Street, Kingston, Ontario, at 9c per year. Editions at 2.50 and 4 o'clock p.m. WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG, 14 pages, published in parts on Monday and Thursday mornings at 11c per copy. To United States, charge for postage has to be made 50c. for Printing 50c. for Weekly.

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The British Whig Publishing Co., Ltd. EDW. J. B. PENSE, Managing Director.

Daily Whig.

TRUTH WILL PREVAIL.

Perhaps Editor Pense will yet remember that he did have a talk with his leader on the subject of the C.N.R. guarantee, if not at the Rossin house, at some other convenient spot.—Hamilton Spectator.

A western paper (not the Spectator) started the story that Mr. Pense and Mr. MacKay had a talk over the attitude of the opposition on the C.N.R. guarantee, in the Rossin house, and the matter went unchallenged for days during the extended absence of Mr. Pense from the province. As soon as his attention was called to the matter he gave it an emphatic contradiction. He had not, he said, discussed the guarantee with Mr. MacKay in the Rossin house, or any other place. That statement the Spectator should accept, in the high journalistic spirit which it so much appreciates. It should as readily receive correction in this matter, as the Whig accepted correction on the Hendrie patronage question.

The liberal candidate is not likely to suffer by the personal abuse of his opponent or his organ. Let it be remembered that in the several elections which he has contested, Mr. Pense has not uttered one slanderous word about his opponents. Whatever the result of the campaign his policy will not be changed.

JOLLYING THE LABOUR PARTY.

When Mr. Hanna was in Kingston he made the laziest kind of a defence of the prison labour system, and especially of the contract he had entered into with a Toronto firm for the sale of convict labour at three cents per hour. Incidentally, during his talk, he said that the labour men had approved of the policy of the government. Nothing could be further from the truth. In 1906 the manufacturers sent a deputation to the government to protest (and in vain), against the revival of the contract system, after its abolition for seventeen years. The labour party also sent a deputation to the government to offer its objections, and the Tribune, its official organ, put this, among other things, on record: "So far as the labor delegation was concerned, they came away convinced that nothing will be done by the government to cancel this agreement. The only satisfaction they received was that they had again placed a standing protest on behalf of organized labor against placing the labor of convicts in the open market against honest and free labor, and to prevent Mr. Hanna, or any other member of this government, from again making use of the assertion that no objection had been received from the unions against this most unfair kind of competition. This committee is now confirmed in the belief, which has been growing for some time, that the present government is in no way friendly to labor, and no relief need be looked for from the Whitney government."

Is that not definite enough? Is there any word here which could justify the conclusion that the labour men approved of the prison labour contract system? On the contrary is there not the evidence that Mr. Hanna, as usual, has been trying to jolly and humbug the people?

Mr. Crothers, of St. Thomas, is bidding for new honors by announcing, on the authority of the premier, that school books will be published by the government and given away! Strange that Mr. Whitney does not make any of these announcements himself.

ROUGH-HOUSE WAY.

"The liberal majority in the House of Commons, at the instance of the Laurier government," says the Montreal Gazette, "rejected an amendment declaring that appointments to the civil service of Canada should be based upon merit and character alone, and should be regulated by competitive examination under a non-partisan commission." Now, is that not a rough-house way of stating the case? Mr. Foster, for pure cussedness, in order to block the business of the house—in order to prevent the passage of supplies so that the members of the civil service could get their monthly salaries—brought down a motion on civil service reform. He did this on the very day on which the Civil Service bill was to have been introduced by Hon. Mr. Fisher, and his absence from the house was caused by the death of a friend.

A summary of the bill has been published, and there is provision, it seems, for a reclassification of the civil servants, for promotions according to merit, for a regulation of the whole inside service so that the people will get the highest efficiency on the most acceptable terms. As far as possible the civil service will be removed from political influence, and under the direction of a permanent commission. This commission will be

amenable to parliament only for its work.

It is assumed that the government will have something still to say about appointments, since there is provision for the engagement of technical experts or specialists who may be recommended by the heads of departments, and with the concurrence of the commission. The government has no power to override the commission, however, and, so far as the bill indicates, they are to be supreme. The outside service may later be brought under the same law and conditions. It is hoped it will, and the public service everywhere become at once honorable and dignified and free from all reproach.

The point is that while all this is being aimed at by the government Mr. Foster should be engaged in moving want of confidence resolutions (as a means of obstruction), and that the party press should allege that the government is opposed to civil service reform because it disapproves of Mr. Foster's nonsense.

The Mail and Empire calls for the resignation of Mr. Macdonald, of the Globe, because he dare criticize the general policy and short-comings of the Whitney government. The premier had better dismiss this hiring of the didd!

WHAT DID GALLAGHER DO?

The electors of the county have reason to be thoroughly dissatisfied with the educational policy of the Whitney government. The idea of making the salaries of the rural school teachers depend upon the assessment of the school section was unjust, and so the school trustees protested against it. The theory was that the education department was desirous of raising the salaries of the teachers—which was laudable enough—but the liberals argued that worth, experience and qualification could be recognized by the government giving an extra grant to the schools in which such teachers are employed.

The law as passed was not only an imposition upon the school sections, but it was arbitrary in the extreme, in that it applied to the rural schools only and not to schools in villages, towns and cities. What have the farmers done that they should be singled out for this discrimination? Is faithful support to be rewarded in this way? What did Mr. Gallagher do to change it? At the convention which nominated him he pleaded that he had "kicked," but in vain, and Dr. Spankie, who followed him, said that if he held a seat in the legislature, he would not be ignored, and his voice would not be silent, when there was so much cause for it to be heard.

It is the order of the day to call down the members who allowed obnoxious measures to pass. There is some excuse or apology for the liberals, who were not taken into the confidence of the government, but there is no excuse for the men who sit in caucus and consent, as Mr. Gallagher must have done, to the law which proposed to make the rural school trustees so many tax-gatherers, without any right to pass upon the salary question, or determine how the salaries should be raised and paid.

What is the use of blaming the federal government for sending too many helpless people to Canada. The Whitney government is doing its share of the mischief at an expense last year of \$58,000. The most the liberal government spent in any one year was \$24,000.

FALL OF A METEOR.

The Whig was promised a new order of things on the appearance of the Standard. The old News was gone, with its bad name, its bad reputation, and its serious offences. Henceforth there would be no personalities in public discussions. On no account would there be a lapse from grace. Some men might suggest roughness, they might even threaten, these lovers of coarseness, but the Standard would remain true to its ideals.

There were some evidences of rebellion in the party, and some evidences, too, that it was being met in a firm and courageous spirit. Hence the interest that centred in the "announcement" of a few days ago. There were certain rumours in circulation, and they were calculated to weaken the influence of the Standard, and the editor deemed it expedient to say, "briefly, but none the less emphatically, that he and he alone was responsible for the editorial policy of the paper." Let there might be any misgivings upon this point, he added: "This is not a personal organ. It is not a party organ. It is a newspaper, and as such it will be conducted, malicious remarks to the contrary notwithstanding." The meaning of this was not quite apparent, but it sounded like the final deliverance of a man who had been urged to do what he could not conscientiously, and to cast off the tempters or threateners with evident contempt. The victory was short-lived. The conservative candidate, having a paper, proposed to use it, and Friday's Standard was the limit. The ideals were gone, the lofty tone of impersonal comment and dignified criticism on passing events

were missing, and in their place there was abuse of which the old News, with all its faults, would have been ashamed.

The strangest feature is that the Whig and its publisher, who were promised immunity from vulgar attack, were the objects of hatred and malice. The Whig's offence lay in the fact that it called Ald. Nickle to account when he was inclined to be unfair and dictatorial in the council. He thought it honorable to pursue Ald. Toye on the bread and gas question, until Ald. Toye turned and touched him on the power question. Ald. Toye was the means of giving the official accounts, its production cost a trifle more, but Ald. Nickle could have left some one else to talk about it seeing that his railway was getting power for 1.66 cents per kilo-watt hour, which was costing the city 1.94 cents per kilo-watt hour. Hence the outbreak of Ald. Nickle and his personal organ, and the admission, notwithstanding all their sound and fury, that what Ald. Toye said was perfectly correct.

What is to be said of the fall of the Standard from its high estate? Nothing. Like a meteor, it has disappeared from the heavens when we were advised to look for a new and very brilliant star.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Loud talk is not going to win this election, but work, and the liberals are wise in giving this their attention.

Personal abuse helped in the election of the liberal candidate three years and a half ago. It will have that effect again.

The liberal campaign in this election is much more vigorous than that of three years and a half ago. The result will be evident in the polling ten days hence.

Reference has been made to several men who suffered by contact with the Whig. Why? Because they acted like the men who will fool with the buzzsaw, with the usual result.

The provincial treasurer seeks to modify the quarrel in Grenville by saying that the government wants to see Mr. Ferguson elected, as he is eligible for a seat in the cabinet. Is this not a bribe?

S. H. Blake is not a new convert to Whitneyism. He broke with the liberals before the last election and sought to destroy them with his thunderbolt. The party will survive his criticism now.

Who is to be shoved out of the government when Mr. Ferguson, the government candidate, is preferred before Mr. Joynt, the independent in Grenville, and announced as a possible colleague of the premier?

Bourassa will run against Premier Gouin in Montreal. The Herald says it is not satisfaction he wants, or election, but advertising. He professes to love the premier, but it is spectacular to have him for an opponent.

Wright, in West Toronto, accuses Mr. McPherson of playing the traitor in the Gamey case. The situation must be desperate in West Toronto when members of a party take to hurling accusations like this at one another.

Since county conservatives are expected to go wild with joy over the promise that the Central prison will be located within it. Is that an honor or an advantage? Is Kingston benefited by the presence of the penitentiary within its limits?

The personality of the writers or contributors for the Whig is a matter of no consequence to anyone. The Whig discusses public men and measures candidly and honourably. It is the Whig that speaks, not the individual who frames the ideas.

ECHOES OF A DEBATE.

Cold Storage Debate.

Mr. Daniels, in supporting the complaint of Williams said Sir Frederick Borden had taunted Mr. Foster with being the last person to preach morality, but he did not think the minister of militia was a man who should preach morality.

"Go on, speak out like a man, say what you mean," cried several liberal members.

Dr. Daniels—"I had better say no more about that."

Sir Frederick Borden—"You had better not."

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SATAN REBUKING SIN.

A Conservative Paper on a Recent Debate. Montreal Star. Here we had Satan rebuking sin. Mr. Foster arraigns Sir Frederick Borden for doing, in the spirit of the things very much what he had done himself. Sir Frederick, being human—quite human, indeed—retorted upon Mr. Foster by a reference to this patent fact; and much of the force of the Postorian charge was thereby lost. This illustrates the unfortunate position of the opposition with regard to several of their most forward spokesmen. Their own records make the ground from beneath their feet, when they arise to assail the mischievous practices of the government. They are in an entirely different position from the little band of liberal oppositians, who session after session, pounded the conservative administration prior to 1896 for their misdeeds. It may have been lack of opportunity or what not, but the fact remained that the critics of that day had not been notoriously guilty of the very crimes which they charged against the then ministries. The whole incident illustrates the political folly of either party permitting itself to be saddled with such representatives.

A Naval Episode in 1876.

London Chronicle. The approaching visit of the American fleet to Australia will recall a couple of Australia-American naval episodes that caused some commotion in their time. One was the escape of six Fenian prisoners on April 17th, 1878, from Western Australia, then a penal colony—an event about which J. P. Hogan writes in the current Notes and Queries. The rescue was effected by an American whaler, the Catalpa, chartered for the purpose by the Clan-na-Gael. It was a race for the Catalpa between a boat containing the Fenians and another filled by the pursuing police. The former won by a few seconds. Then a British gunboat, the Georgette, arrived, and summoned the captain of the Catalpa to surrender. His reply was to hoist the Stars and Stripes and get ready for action. The captain of the Georgette naturally did not like to risk the possibilities involved in firing on the American flag, and while he was considering the situation the Catalpa sailed away to America with the fugitive Fenians.

The Trusts and Guarantee company, limited, Toronto, has been appointed liquidator of the Canadian McVicker Engine company, limited, of Galt.

Emmanuel Coltrino, the noted Italian automobile driver, was killed on the Pimlico track, at Baltimore, while running seventy-two miles an hour.

Fig prune coffee, something new, 30c a lb. package, at Gilbert's.

White blouse and underwear sale, at Waldron's, 25c.

Three Toronto men were arrested, in Buffalo, on a charge of stealing mink skins.

See Bibby's smart \$1 straws. Best cooked ham at Gilbert's. The failures in Canada for the past week were 23; same week, 1907, 35.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR RE-ELECTION EDW. J. B. PENSE.

Provincial Election.

To The Electors of Kingston and Fortsmouth: GENTLEMEN—I respectfully solicit your votes and assistance to secure my return as representative in the ensuing legislature.

Very Truly Yours, JAMES H. METCALFE. Kingston, May 2nd, 1908.

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