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ANOTHER OF OLD GUARD GONE.

The old guard is rapidly passing away. The liberal party in Canada has to mourn the loss of some of its aolest leaders, men who laid deep and broad the foundations of liberalism in this country, and the policies they enunciated have been for the development and growth of the Canadian nation. We think of a Brown, a Cartier, a Mackenzie, a Howe and a Mowat, and, now, Sir Richard Cartwright, the doughty fighter and the clean politician, has laid down his sword and passed to his reward. His name will live in Canadian history, and, undoubtedly, in ages to come he will be regarded among the foremost of Canadian statesmen; among the empire builders on this North American continent.

The deceased statesman was great as well as good. He had a heart as tender as a woman's and an ear ever open to the cry of the needy and the distressed. His home life was sweet and beautiful and his children rise up to call him blessed. He was a quiet, devoted churchman, courtly and christian in his relationship with those in authority and always true and strong in his defence of right principles and right action.

It will, however, be as a parliamentarian, as a statesman, that his name will shine in days to come. As a debater he had few rivals. He was keen and quick to get underneath the armour of his opponents and to disclose their wrong views and wrong attitudes in public government. Sir Richard was not a fighter from choice, but he had the strength and force that made him most vigorous in denunciation and invective. His knowledge, his vast knowledge, we may say of the world's history, made him logical in his arguments and positive in his statements. It will be many a day before Canada will have a more clever or more eloquent a speaker than the late Sir Richard Cartwright.

To him can be credited many of the forward movements of the Laurier government. He was the stalwart backer and personal friend of the distinguished premier. He stood with him, and with the other members of the cabinet, for that which would give prosperity and power to the Canadian people, and what we possess to-day is in a great measure due to his outlook and his capacity to discern what was best to give stimulus and vitality to the nation of the north.

In all parts of Canada his death will be deplored, his praises will be sounded, and to his memory will be accorded all honor and all respect.

THE BANKER AND THE FARMER.

Why must the western farmer rush his grain to market every season in such a hurry? For two reasons. In the first place, because as a general thing he has no adequate storage accommodation, and in the second place, even if he had the best of fireproof and vermin-proof storage for his grain he could not raise money on it. The bank act, says the Toronto Globe, gives no authority to lend money to the farmer on the security of his crops, and a western grain-grower might have thousands of dollars' worth of grain in absolutely safe storage bins on his farms without being able to obtain a loan of a dollar upon it.

Yet the moment that grain is transferred to a dealer and reaches the local elevator it becomes lawful security for bank advances even though the property may be far less securely stored than it would be in the barn of the producer. The clause of the bank act governing the matter is as follows:

"The bank may lend money to any wholesale purchaser or shipper of or dealer in products of agriculture, the forest, quarry, or mine, or the sea, lakes and rivers, or to any wholesale purchaser or shipper of or dealer in live stock or dead stock and the products thereof upon the security of such products or of such live stock or dead stock and the products thereof."

If that clause were so amended as to include the producer with the dealer in grain it would work a great change in the west. The fact that the farmer would be able to secure bank advances on grain in his possession would lead to the more general construction of storage facilities on the farms and would greatly lessen the fall rush to market. That rush is caused mainly by the desire of the grain-grower to obtain money as soon as possible to pay his implement notes and his store bills. Were the grain grower in a position to secure bank advances on his grain his credit would be greatly improved and grain blockades would be less frequent. A movement to amend the bank act in the direction indicated is under way. It will undoubtedly secure the strong support of the farming community of the east as well as the west.

LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

The United States politician is following the Canadian example of urging the electors in the coming presidential election to "let well enough alone." The Buffalo, N.Y., News finds that "men are thinking about what good reason there can be for upsetting things when the tide of prosperity is at a great height and is still rising. The democratic candidates are running away from the fact and where they cannot escape its influence they do their best to disparage it and make light of it. But the fact remains and people are thinking every day more and more seriously of what folly it will be to overturn an administration that has been instrumental, as far as sound policies of government can be, in restoring the prosperity that went by the board late in 1907 and which had by no means returned when Mr. Taft took office."

NOT ADEQUATE PUNISHMENT.

The Hamilton Herald in discussing the work of white slave people remarks that the criminal code does not provide for the adequate punishment of the agents of the hellish traffic in human bodies and souls. The penalty for luring a young girl into a life of prostitution should be at least as severe as the penalty for burglary. In the latter crime property is stolen; in the former, human lives are ruined. The safeguarding of property is not so important as is the safeguarding of human lives. The dreadful work goes on apace in all parts of Canada and it should be the first business of parliament to issue such drastic legislation that the villianous work will be permanently banished from the land.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

By next fall Kingston should have a real fair.

A year of conservative rule has passed by and the great things the local tories promised would materialize "at once" are still far away. Will we ever get a national harbor?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is out of power but his present tour shows that he stands as close to the hearts of the people and is as much admired today as any statesman Canada ever produced.

An aviator, who beat his wife and who was accused of the offence before a New York police justice, regained her affections as soon as they had taken a trip in his airship. Here is a hint for an effective treatment of matrimonial disputes.

The United States senate will probe into the "financial transactions" between the Roosevelt party and the big interests. Incidentally the investigation will throw some light on the principles underlying the scientific tariff policy of the republican party.

Though out of power at Ottawa at present, there is every indication that liberalism with its progressive Canadian politics is not out for long. None look forward to the next federal election with more forebodings than those conservatives nearest the confidence of Mr. Borden and his lieutenants.

A scheme of railway extension is one of the big things to which the new rulers of China will early give their attention. The idea is wise. China is an aggregation of provinces rather than a nation, and it will be likely to retain its present status till the people of the interior can move about and gain knowledge of each other's strength and wants. The railway is a great unifier.

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