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OF A PRIVATE SECRETARY

By J. L. PAYNE

Early Newspaper Days and Men-Sir James Edgar's Trained Political Choir-The Private Secretary, His Duties, Painful and Otherwise-Civil Service and Patronage,

ARTICLE XI. Hon. A. G. Biar under somewhat in ! library until midnight or lat ceculiar circumstances. Sir Wilfrid er. Laurier had asked me to be his English secretary, and for a week or two it seemed that I was fated to serve the third Frime Minister of esticity was so strong that he had Canada in . equence. But eighteen no place for clubs of any sort. He promises which even the late years in the poor pasturage of op- loved his family and his library. Morley has a sured us are the position has made the Liberals sus- During my more than six years with warp and woo of successful politics, Dichous. No one could biame them him he bought a great many books. he could not be a party to a thing for reeling that way about one who He was fond of pictures, too, and which his judgment told him was had been for ten year, living in the when he d.ed his books and art from every point of view a colossa. tents of their political enemy. It gallery constituted an important blunder. We may now all afford sound like a risky thing, and risks part in his estate. Incidentally, I to be frank with ourselves, and adat that stage of the new order at may say that he had nine children. mit that Mr. Blair was right, and

explained to me, "and the appre- for about eight years.

ter the top story of that block had ed, or give it up."" been destroyed by fire.

ed on 18th July, 1903.

with Sir Wilfrid Laurier about the tired. He could walk in his vigor- avoided if Bair's prophette vision Commission and he accepted. No About that time David Russell administration of the Intercolonial, ous way all day, and then take a and judgment had prevailed at that better choice could have been made announced that Mr. Blair had resigand something I said led him to sus- turn of a couple of miles, as he put time! pect that I was depreciating Mr. it, "just to freshen up before going What strange influence was it man available knew so well the Act Railway Commission, and would Blair. I hastened to correct the to bed." I fancy he was also a stran- that blinded men at the helm of which that important tribunal was take the political platform on a false impression, and Sir Wilfrid ger to fear. No one can be dogmatic state from 1903 to 1914? Looking to administer. No other man could certain date. The resignation had acraid; "I am glad I misunderstood as to that, however. Every man is back on all that happened curing bring such judicial fitness and accur. tually taken place; but Mr. Blair you; for Blair was a big man; yes, probably afraid of something. | those fateful eleven years, it would ate knowledge of Canada's trans- did not take any part in the cama very big man." That was also To a man of the mental calibre seem that the power to reason from my estimate of the man. With of Mr. Blair, it was instinctive that definite premises to logical conclunone of my chiefs did I live as close- he should no sooner be in the De- sions had been taken from the ng my last three years with him, than he was planning something judgment. It was only when vac t can say without the slightest ex- constructive on a big scale. Hence crash came, and Mackenzie and

I became private secretary to four nights out of seven with him he got when he found himself out

A Home Man.

He was a home man. His domwore regarded as impolitic. A son died in 1897, and on 6th Dec., that out of the madness in railway Sir Wilfrid himself-big, tru-ting, 1902, he lost a beautiful daugh- building of that period has grown and knowing his needs-had no mis- ter in a drowning accident on the a problem more serious than that kivings. "I will keep you in the Ottawa river. Mrs. Blair, a sweet which at this moment confronts any background for a short time." he and true companion, survived him other nation on earth.

Mr. my privilege to know. Bisir, in the meantime, had relin-called upon to make a decision, when explaining his resignation. quished the Premiership of New he seemed able to divest himself of should like to quote from it; but it Brunswick and come to Ottawa to every trace of personal feeling or would take up too much space. take the portfolio of Railways and prejudice—and that must be a rare Canals. He had been at that post gift. He had a broad mind, anysix months when he told Sir Wilfrid way. His training in the law had

Years later I was one day talking meant when they said they were and menace Canada would have chairmanship of the new kanway body other than himself.

as I did with Mr. Blair, Dur-partment of Railways and Canals brains of those who shaped public on that we were not only in the rapid completion of the enlarge- Mann stood at the threshold of Par-

Leusion of the intercolonial Contreal. The terms on which he arried out the latter project will always stand as te.t.mony to his astuteness and prescience. Having done that fine stroke of business ros Canada, and reorganized the Government railway system in all its departments, he turned to aspects of the transporta on prop-The Railway Act of 1903, which brought into existence Raliway Commission, was as far as touch with his chief and colleagues Trunk Pacine and building the Na-

tional Transcontinental Railways. However ready Mr. Blair might have been to engage in the comdoubts that Mr. Blair clearly forehensions of my friends will disap- Mr. Blair had about as nearly a law the situation as it has developperfect judicial mind as it was ever ed, let him read his speech as de-When livered in the House of Commons

The Ralikway Crisis.

atimate relations throughout every ment of the canal system and the liament asking for \$60,000,000 to

"My Back Aches"

T is not much wonder that the mother in the home has backaches and headaches when you think of the multi-plicity of work and worries she has from morning until night and from week to

But pains and aches come from poisons in the system and if the kidneys and liver were doing their duty as filters of the blood the poisoning would not remain

This is why it is usual to blame the idneys and the liver for backache, headache, rheumatism etc.

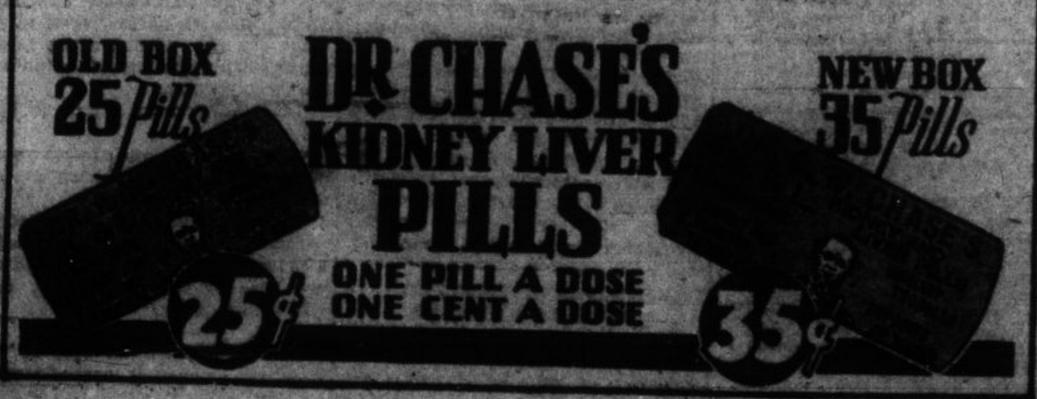
The way to get rid of such pains and aches, then, is by arousing the action of the kidneys and liver and this is most promptly and most certainly done by the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

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You will realize then the advisability of using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills once or twice a week so as to keep these vital organs active and ensure that the poisonous waste matter is promptly removed from the system.

In most homes this medicine is kept constantly on hand for use in case of emergency. Not a bad idea, is it? You will notice that while the price of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills has been

increased to 35 cents, the box now contains 35 pills instead of 25 as formerly. Likewise Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is 60 cents a box of 60 pills, instead of 50 cents a box for 50 pills. Edmanson, lates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.



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Heart and Nerve Pills

Mr. S. E. Barnes, Athens. Ont., writes:- "Four years ago I had a very severe attack of heart trouble. consulted my doctor; he treated me for some time, but I only seemed on the policy of as isting the Grand to be getting worse. I finally went to our druggist and purchased three boxes of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and derived immediate relief from their use, and I can truthfully say they are a wonderful medicine. I always keep a box on hand, and if I feel out of sorts I take a few pills important background. and feel all right again."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c. a box at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The r. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto,

an immediate collapse, men with the reins of government in their hands opened their eyes to the truth. As subsequent events have made plain, ten times sixty millions would not have made ound thing out of the Mackenzie enterprises.

Affection for Laurier How far above his fellows Blair towers in the retrospect! Yet,

way executives knew him. It was name in connection with the vivid ator of the Commission should be sell remained equally secretive.

watched the course of events in the Mr. Blair's successor; and did not railway programme to which the meet Mr. Blair until the campaign Government stood committed. He was over. What he then told me may have been silent; but he cer- I cannot disclose. tainly was not blind. He saw the Grand Trunk Pacific begun, and at

the same time the Canadian Northward. The ill-fated National Trans. continental, running from Moncton erful and independent. His preto Winnipeg, was also put under science was remarkable. Yet, big construction. Unthinking optim- as he was, and clear as was his ism was rushing swiftly toward the judgment and vision, in the end he debacle from which Mr. Blair had was the victim of men and forces valuity tried to save his country. he which I know he would despise. Of did not live to see the final crash; David Russell he often said to me. but I am confident he foresaw it.

David Russell Enters. general election of 1904 took shape. in my judgment-and I certainly Then strange events began to hap nad good reasons for knowing him pen. David Russell moved sudden- -he tried to operate in a croit for ly into the limelight, and, inesmuch which by education, experience and as he played a big part in the nep- genius he was utterly unnitted; and penings of that period, it is neces- ne paid the penalty for his folly. sary to pause here and say a few Yet I shall always remember him as things about this somewhat singu- a genius at money-making and a lar man. History will be obscure man who loved to be liberar. without this sidelight; for I look How David Russell came into

political life of the Dominion. Blair gave him letters to a number the inside. of his friends. Eleven of them inof the beneficiaries.

son, of St. John, was the chief pro- followed in the sequence of events. moter. These tramp vessels were It is equally necessary to turn back they paid dividends from 15 to 40 cmt man. per cent. Mr. Blair embarked in A Humble Begin other enterprises, and was again Mr. Blair had a humble begins-

all this plain to understand what his earnings from his law practice in Fredericton had never exceeded \$3,500 a year, and his dome tic responsibilities practically absorbed all of that sum. Two years before coming to Ottawa he had removed to St. John, and there had quickly got together a busines of \$10,000 per annum. His family was growing up, and, quite naturally, his children were drawn into the best society. When he came to Gitawa, Mr. Blair's rank and means enabled his family to take a prominent place in the social life of the Capital. As for himself, Mr. Blair, cared nothing whatever for the functions and gaieties which modern

as a prosperous man, with the domestic aspects of his life forming an came a series of stunning setbacks. The golden stream was suddenly dried at its source. Investments in stocks on a large scale were followed by a money panic, and within a few months a very large sum & money was lost. I know, because was associated with him in the e ventures and let every dollar I had in the world, including all that David Russell had put me in the way of making or had given to me. Therefore, when Mr. Blair was at the head of the Railway Commission in 1904 he could no longer call himself a rich man.

Borden and Russell.

When the general election was That month of July, 1903, saw clearly as he fore aw what would brought on in the latter part of be might have to give up, because led him to adopt certain principles Canada facing a crisis with but one happen, he never for a moment wav- 1904, David Russell was very much he had found no way of keeping up of reasoning, and from those princi- man open-eyed, looking clearly into ered in his affection for Sir Wilfrid in the foreground of the political with his heavy correspondence. He ples he never departed. Back the future. I was with Mr. Blair Laurier; nor did he doubt the Prime situation in Quebec and New Brunwas then two thousand letters be- of the at there was a tremendous for many hours of every day during Minister's sincerity. Poor Sir swick. Just what he was aiming hind. Without going into details, strength of character. I am confi- that momentous period, and know Wilfrid has been hypnotized by Sen- to do he never told me; but he was let it be said at once that Sir Wilfrid dent that he despised politics, which what was his mind on the issue. ator Cox," he always said; and Sen-clearly at the head of some big] offered to loan him his secretary he often told me led to humiliating He believed that Mesars, Mackenzie ator Cox was merely the large cen- movement. I met him as he was from the obscurity of the Privy compromises. Yet he was a politic- and Mann were intenely seeking to tral figure in a large group, both going to St. John soon after the Council office, and I was sent over ian, in even the narrow sense. As create a second transcontinental in and out of Parliament' Or sev. campaign had begun. He was travto West Block. It was early in he explained: "One must play the railway out of their loosely built eral of his colleagues he spoke less elling in a leased private car and in February, 1897, on the morning af- game in the only way it can be play- and makeshift lines in the West and indulgently. He was usually close- circumstances of great luxury. At East. He saw very plainly that lipped in such matters. A year Fredericton Junction, Sir Robert It would have been impossible for weakness rather than strength would later, however, he said to me one Borden came aboard, and for the I had set eyes on Mr. Blair but Mr. Blair to descend to enything supervene. To him the Canadian afternoon when I met him: "I can- next two hours he and Russell were once before. He made a most fay- small or mean. He was a man Northern was a source of real nat- not hold in much longer. There closeted together. What transpired orable impression on me at once. who reflected his moral attitude in lonal danger, and when to the situa- are some things that have got to be at that meeting I have not the faint-He explained his difficulties, which his bearing. He was a big man tion was added the project of a third told." But he died with the seal of est notion; but I always regarded it were really due to a faulty system, physically, and always walked with railway from ocean, he silence unbroken, and I shall never as significant that the next day an and agreed to try my plan for a his head up and a firm step. He was prepared to sacrifice every per- cease to believe that the strain had announcement appeared in all the week or two to test its merits. I was actually a giant in strength, and sonal ambition, and the high place much to do with his sudden end. leading Conservative papers that Sir remained with him until he resign- told me that he had never but once he held, rather than approve it even | Some little time after his resigna- Robert Borden would not be responin his life known what peopre by his silence. What infinite loss tion Mr. Blair was asked to take the sible for any promises made by any-

by the Government; for no other ned from the chairmanship of the port needs to bear on the situation, paign, nor did he ever give any He knew the railways, and the rail- explanation of the use made of his an augury of success that the cre- events of that period. David Ruswas at that time serving as private In that position Mr. Blair silently secretary to Hon. H. R. Emmerson.

A Pathetic Collapse. To me this collapse and eclipse of en pushed both westward and east- a really great men was poignantly pathetic. He was naturally mast-"He will be either a great millionaire or a pauper in ten years. What has become of this generous All went along well until the and clever organizer I do not know.

upon the intervention of David Rus- posse. sion of the St. John Daily sel as having developed one of the Telegraph would be a good story if most extraordinary interludes in the I were free to give all the details. It can at least be said, however, that David Russell was then a young this organ of Liberal thought was man in the thirties. I knew him capitalized by a syndicate of Mr. exceedingly well, and have pleasant Blair's friends. One day Russell memories of his abounding gener. wired Mr. Biair that he had taken osity. A bigger hearted fellow nev- ever the paper. Mr. Blair showed er lived. Mr. Blair had known him me the telegram and remarked that is St. John, and, after coming to "Dave is getting to be quite a jokditaws. Russell turned up one day er." It wasn't any joke, however. with a proposition to exploit a sal- Russell became the owner of the ine laxative which he had picked up paper by right of seizure, and there England. He gave it the name of wos no one to protest. Politics is a bey's Effervescent Salt, and Mr. funny game when you see it from

sted \$5,000 each, and David Rus- In the thick of political affinirs ell; found himself started on a ser- for a generation, a natural leader, ies of commercial adventures which, and a really big man, it must have as time proceeded, carried him into been agonizing to Mr. Blair to find millions of capitalization. Russell his light suddenly gone out and he was a born promoter, with the gift himself unable to tell his thousands of innoculating others with his op- of friends why. In the long silence timism. He made money fast, and which followed he shower heroism. spent it with a lavish hand. Big Only a strong and proud man could men in Canada, the United States have kept his peace. What he disand abroad, put tens of thousands closed to me must remain forever into his enterprises. Gold was now- sealed. But he never told me all. ing in a rich and voluminous stream I always fancied that he took it for into the pockets of the owners of granted I would be able to supply Abbey's Salt; and Mr. Blair was one some of the missing information. Given two sides of an equilateral Co-incidentally, Mr. Blair had the triangle and there need be no speccome interested in a line of steam-julation about the third. The exers, of which the late Robert Thom- presses my position; but it would be

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ociety so much affects. In 1902-3

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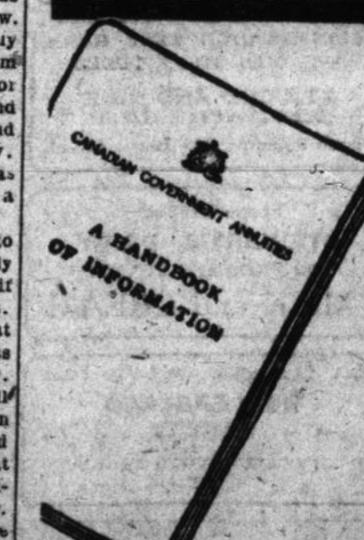
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fortunate. Indeed, he regarded ing. He rose to be a succes ful in the last degree improper to add be regarded as forgotten. Of Mr. himself as potentially a millionaire, lawyer on his merits, and for many to what has been said. I am here Blair's peculiarities and characterand he probably was; but not con- years was the Prime Minister of giving my recollections; yet there isties, however, I shall have somecretely. It is necessary to make New Brunswick. He told me that are very many things which must thing to my later.