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DAILY EDITION

Saturday, April 3, 1915.

EDITORIALS

The Conservative organs which tried to make the people believe that there was discord between the leaders of the Liberal party will be greatly confounded by the full report of the recent Vancouver convention. All the papers in the city were invited to send representatives and The Province gives a very fair report of the meeting, showing the greatest unanimity. Dr. John Mackay, who was present, took pains to refute the insinuation that he was not in perfect harmony with the Liberal leaders. He had refused to become a candidate because he did not want to become a party man and because he felt that his present work demanded his attention. His declaration that conditions in British Columbia are the worst he had ever known will carry weight, coming as it does from a man who has "no axe to grind." His support is a tower of strength to the Liberal party.

A few months ago the Conservatives declared that there was no Liberal party—that it was dead and buried. Of late, however, they were loud in opposition to what they called the "Liberal machine." The evident purpose, of course, was to divert attention from their own. The statement of Dr. Mackay in this respect is conclusive. He referred to this very fact and said that if a machine meant the organized efforts of serious men, then he was perfectly willing to take his chances with the "Liberal machine." In other words, Dr. Mackay has confidence in the character and ability of the men who lead the Liberal party, while he has lost all faith in the Conservative leaders. Every government is in a sense a "machine," but it is only when it becomes a corrupt organization as we have in British Columbia that it becomes dangerous. Let us get rid of it.

The Conservatives who are trying to raise the make-believe bogey of a discord in the ranks of the Liberals should consider first the state of their own party. Independent Conservative Associations have been formed all over the country headed by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who has long looked with scorn on the villainous practices of the McBride government. The reply of W. J. Bowser to this movement is significant. Taking his

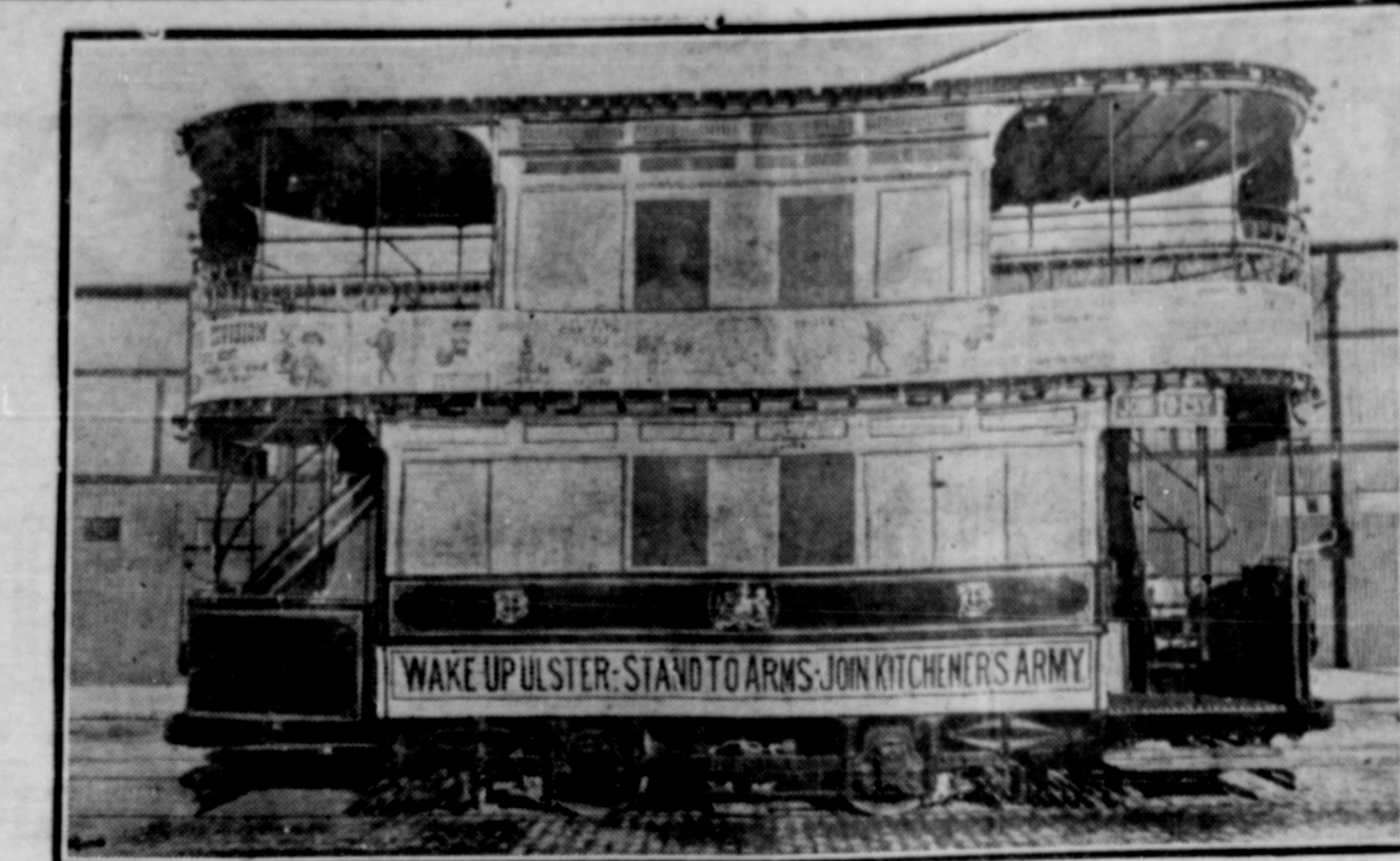
Napoleonic cue, he declares in military language that "Independent Conservatives must be put to the bayonet." If there is any Liberal who does not agree with any particular candidate he is at liberty to run as an independent Liberal without any fear of being "put to the bayonet." The Conservatives, however, insist on a closed machine with every man hammered into line. This is not the kind of practice that has made the British Empire the freest land 'neath the sun.

The Borden government is about to pass a bill to enable all the soldiers at the front to cast their ballots at the forthcoming elections. This is something new in constitutional government. Australia and New Zealand, of course, enabled their soldiers to vote, but they did it by taking their declaration before they left home. Nobody wants to disenfranchise the men who are fighting for their country but it does seem to be a very petty affair that the soldier must be dragged out of the trenches and buried into a party fight, especially when the election could be left over till the war is finished. The method of procedure will be that the soldier shall fill in the ballot in the presence of a commissioned officer, who shall sign it. Anybody who may be looking for a pension for injury from the government will have to be careful how he votes; and then what is to prevent unprincipled politicians—of which there are scores—to fill in the ballots themselves. The whole transaction has a flavor about it that no self-respecting government would care to shoulder.

A letter has been received from G. W. Nickerson, too long for publication, in which he takes exception to a comment of this paper with regard to the proposition put forth by the Cold Storage Company. To quote Mr. Nickerson in part, he says:

"The City Council requested of the Cold Storage Company a proposition as to just what inducements would be expected of the city in order to be able to accomplish the following objects:

- "1—To sell ice at a price of \$3 per ton.
- "2—To sell bait at \$15 per ton.
- "3—To freeze fish and carry it in storage for one month at



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Photograph shows a recruiting car which is in operation in the streets of Belfast. It was designed by a Londoner who is serving with the Ulster division.

one-half cent per pound, and one-eighth cent for every month thereafter.

"4—To freeze bait and carry in storage for one month at \$5 per ton and one-twentieth cent for every month thereafter.

"These prices, with the exception of ice, are less than those prevailing at any other port on the Coast. On the other hand, various other commodities necessary to the trade will be found higher in price in Prince Rupert than in other ports, and the committee of which I was a member, calculated that if the lower prices as above listed, could be secured, it would equalize the higher prices on other articles, and thus make a common low average for everything necessary to the fishing trade in Prince Rupert.

"The Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Company, in reply to the city, stated that in consideration of the city supplying them with electric power at one-eighth of a cent, they would be enabled to set a price of \$3 per ton for ice, but they maintained that the other rates were reasonable under their present schedule.

"There is nothing in this reply to call for such editorial remarks as the Daily News last evening contained. So far as we know, their letter was by no means final; it was simply a preliminary note and leaves the question open to further negotiations."

What this paper maintained was that this company did not meet the proposals of the city in a business way. They demand that we give them power at several hundred per cent



less than the biggest consumers in Seattle play and the only concession they promised in return was that they would sell ice at the same price as other unsubsidized concerns on the Coast and at the same time maintain their present excessive prices for bait and storage.

This paper fully appreciates the value of the Cold Storage Company to this city but it must not be forgotten that they didn't come here to help us out but rather to make money for themselves. At the same time it is quite in order to give them any reasonable assistance to enable them to successfully compete with other concerns on the Coast but when they come forward with such an unreasonable request as the one they have just made it is time that somebody called a halt.

The trouble with this city as well as others on the Coast is that they are scared blue by the big corporations and there does not seem to be anybody who will stand up and tell them what he thinks of them. So long as big corporations are allowed to dictate their own terms, so long will they continue to crush the life blood out of the cities concerned. Let us meet those concerns half-way but let us refuse to be bullied or scared into giving away our birthright.

CONSERVATIVES THANK LIBERALS FOR HELP

There was a notable departure from the generally accepted rules of Conservative party meetings when the Lincoln County Conservative Association, in annual meeting at St. Catharines, Ont., on March 6, passed a resolution in which, as reported by the Toronto World (Conservative) "the war appropriation passed by the Dominion government was endorsed and tribute was paid to the loyal support of the opposition." This fair-minded and generous recognition of the loyal cooperation of the Liberal party under the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not at all suit Mr. J. D. Chaplin, the Conservative candidate nominated last autumn. After the resolution had been unanimously adopted, he protested against the convention paying any tribute to the loyalty of Liberals, whether in or out of the House of Commons, and demanded that the compliment to the Liberals be expunged from the resolution. To the credit of the convention, it is recorded that the mover of the resolution flatly refused to consent to the change and one delegate who supported Mr. Chaplin in his request was literally "howled down."

LIEUT. COL MARITZ, REBEL LEADER, ESCAPES

Capetown, April 1.—That Lieutenant Colonel Martiz, ringleader of the recent Boer revolt, had escaped and fled to the interior was reported in a dispatch received here from Johannesburg.

Most good talkers are poor quitters.



THE LAST OF THE GIANTS' OLD GUARD.

The photo made a few days ago at the spring training quarters of the New York Giants at Marlin shows, left to right, Fred Merkle, Larry Doyle, Christy Mathewson, J. J. McGraw and Fred Snodgrass, the only members of the team who have reported at Marlin every spring since 1908.

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