

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1912.

Editorial Notes and Clippings

WHITE SLAVERY

PROTECTED IN B. C.

In British Columbia today there exists a condition of affairs which, with the possible exception of Russia, is unknown in the civilized world. It has been our pride and boast that the British law was all powerful; that the evildoer must quake and tremble at the majesty of British authority. We have held ourselves aloof and sneered at the administration of justice in the United States, but we people of British Columbia can do so no more. There is not a single state in the Union which has not a better administration of law than has British Columbia, and we acknowledge it with shame. In no country in the world where there is a semblance of constitutional government would the attorney general dare to override the laws as has Attorney General Bowser, of this province. Today British Columbia is practically in a state of anarchy—there is no law, except that of one man, and in the might of strength of the Conservative majority in the Legislature he rules.

Vancouver attained, because of its underworld and the gilded life of the night, a most unenviable reputation from San Diego to Cape Nome. The number of immoral women within its limits was astonishing. It became so bad that it was not safe for a respectable girl to walk alone on the streets in broad daylight, and accompanied ladies were often insulted. The police, under the able supervision of Chief Chamberlain and Deputy Chief Mulhern, saw all this and the moment that the Police Commissioners gave the word and the task of cleaning the city was given to the deputy chief, the detectives and policemen were set to work. The first day over a hundred fallen women were dragged to jail and were given by the magistrate three days in which to leave the city. Those found after that period were sentenced to imprisonment, without the option of a fine.

The police had performed their duty and the magistrate, on the authority of the criminal

code of Canada sentenced these girls to jail. They were taken to New Westminster, and here it was Attorney-General Bowser interfered. The commitment papers were taken from the policeman in charge of the prisoners and were torn up and the prostitutes were turned loose "on orders." Since that time this farce in justice has been repeated, and Bowser does not hesitate in announcing that it was done by his authority.

Does a man steal a piece of bread he is sentenced and has to serve out his term in jail, and no more is thought about it. The law demands it and the court following out the instructions of the code, sentences the thief, but harlots and lewd women, who prey on innocent young girls and drag them down to worse than death, are protected by Attorney-General Bowser. Surely a minister of the government of British Columbia is not bound to the women of the street! What is then that causes him to set aside the law, defy the courts, not only police, but higher tribunals of justice. For the county court has sustained the action of Magistrates South and Shaw in sentencing the offenders. It then follows that Bowser is over the law, and therefore there is no law but Bowser's.

Is there a law abiding citizen in this province who does not feel ashamed to know that the white slave traffic in innocent girls may proceed freely and openly in British Columbia protected by the government? Do not fathers rebel at the suggestion? Is there a mother's heart in the land which does not tighten at the thought? But nevertheless it is true. Those girls sentenced and freed can not be re-arrested during the time of their supposed incarceration in jail, and unafraid of police interference they openly carry on the traffic in souls in the largest city in the province.

NO HYBRID POLICY.

"Oh you Tory jingoes! Is that the amount of the sacrifice you are prepared to make?"

You are ready to furnish admirals, rear-admirals, commodores, captains, officers of all grades, plumes, feathers and gold lace, but you leave it to England to supply the bone and sinew of these ships.

"You say that these ships shall bear Canadian names. That will be the only thing Canadian about them. You will hire some one to do your work. In other words, you are ready to do anything except the fighting.

"Is that the true policy? It is a cross between jingoism and nationalism. Unless I mistake the spirit of the Canadian people, if they are true to their ideals, if they are true to their own blood, they will not be satisfied with this hybrid policy."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

LANSOWNE IS REAL LEADER OF UNIONISTS

This Made Clear at Autumn Conference of Party—Bonar Law Directs Opposition Tactics.

London, Dec. 16.—At the autumn conference of the National Unionist Association, when the platform of the Unionist party was confirmed, it was made very clear that should there be a change of government in the United Kingdom the task of forming the cabinet would fall upon the shoulders of Lord Lansdowne and not upon Bonar Law.

During the past few months, as all the fighting has been in the House of Commons, and attention has been attracted to that house more than to the House of Lords, Unionists as well as Liberals have come to regard Bonar Law as actually, if not technically, leader of his party, as well as of that part of it which sits in the House of Lords. At the conference, however, it was Lord Lansdowne, not Mr. Law, who was chosen to make the important announcements in regard to the policy of the party, a duty which invariably falls to the leader of the party. Mr. Law, it will be remembered, was chosen leader of the Unionists in the Commons when Mr. Balfour retired, but unlike his predecessor, Mr. Law was not chosen leader of the party. He is simply floor leader in the lower house, and he obtained that position because the Conservative and Liberal-Unionist elements of what is now known officially as the Unionist party could not compose their differences and elect either of their leaders, Austin Chamberlain or Walter Long, to the place.

Bonar Law has not been a great success as a leader, and therefore the action of the national convention in making clear that he was not the leader of the party in the country. Mr. Law's direct manner pleases and arouses the younger element in his party. The great bulk of the old line Conservatives, however,

prefer the old quiet style of Mr. Balfour was the exemplar, and while they do not openly oppose they privately object to the somewhat exaggerated views expressed by Mr. Law on what will happen in Ulster if home rule is passed, for example, or his support of the noisy interrupters in Parliament, who the other evening pelted the Prime Minister with paper and in other ways acted in a manner unbecoming members of Parliament.

The assumption by Lord Lansdowne of the leadership of the party also indicates that his health, which last summer it was feared had broken down, has since greatly improved.

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