

THE DOMINION FRANCHISE.

The Conservative Hamilton Spectator disapproves of the present Dominion franchise act, and of the amending act which Sir John Thompson introduced but afterwards dropped during the late session. Its views as to the proper method of reform are thus expressed: "It is to be hoped that when the time comes, next session, to amend the Dominion act, the whole thing will be wiped out—body, boots and breeches, and a simple, uniform qualification established, with the registration system for making the lists. The registration system has been in use in the United States for many years, and has given the best satisfaction. In Toronto this year the registration system was tried as an experiment, and the experiment was most successful, giving entire satisfaction to all parties. Under the registration system no list is made, nor is any expense incurred unless there is going to be an election. There is no annual revision of the lists, no expensive courts, no costly machinery to be moved every year, election or no election. When an election is decided upon the voters lists are registered. The preparation of the lists under this system is inexpensive. The lists are up to date; a vast deal of canvassing is made unnecessary, and personation is entirely prevented. There cannot be any doubt about the great advantages of the registration system. The marvel is that it was not long ago adopted in Canada. When Sir John makes a change in the franchise act we hope to see the registration system adopted." In this matter the Spectator is undoubtedly right, and we sincerely hope it will convert the government and the majority in parliament to its opinion. Patching the present franchise act is worse than useless, for it can never prove anything but a failure. It causes revision of the lists when no election is to be held, putting the country to needless expense. On the other hand, it has brought about the use of old and out-of-date lists in elections, a result which nobody can honestly commend. If Sir John Thompson will only introduce an act embodying manhood suffrage, the one-man-one-vote principle and a simple system of self-registration, with revision of the lists only when an election is to be held, he will do something material in support of his claim to be considered a statesman.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

A few weeks ago a cable dispatch quoted Sir William Harcourt as saying that it had never been conceded that the colonies were included in the words "other nation or other country" in the favored-nation clause of Great Britain's commercial treaties. This was taken to mean that the treaties did not preclude a preferential trade arrangement between portions of the empire. Now another cable dispatch reports Sir Edward Grey, the foreign office secretary, as saying that while the treaties would prevent Great Britain giving trade preferences to the colonies, they would prevent the colonies discriminating in favor of the mother country as against outsiders. If Sir Edward Grey's opinion is correct the notion of a preferential trade arrangement is pretty thoroughly knocked out. The situation in such case is that Great Britain could discriminate in favor of the colonies, but will not, while the colonies cannot discriminate however willing they may be. We do not know that there is great importance attached to the fact that British official opinions vary as to the interpretation of this favored-nation clause, for the preferential trade idea is a chimerical one at best. There is no likelihood of Great Britain falling in with the idea, let the colonies favor it ever so warmly. While her trade with outsiders has a volume many times as great as that of her trade with the colonies the mother country will scarcely face the risk of reducing the one to secure a small increase in the other. In short, which preferential scheme is but a bad which Canadian politicians of a certain stripe delight to play with, largely because they fancy it distracts the people's attention from the mournful failure of the N.P.

MR. HUME'S POSITION.

Utterances of the West Kootenay papers lately support the assertions made by the government press in regard to Mr. Hume, the member-elect for the south riding. Even the Miner, while it endeavors to show that Mr. Hume was elected because of his personal popularity and not because he was an oppositionist, does not venture to say that he will support the government. On the contrary, it winds up with the following wall, which seems highly significant: "We are sorry for Kaslo. She did what she could and we fancy that other parts of the district may ere long have cause to regret the impulse which led them to forsake a government which has done so much for them and to put their interests into the hands of an opposition, without influence, without even unity." The testimony of the Kaslo "Times" is quite direct. It says: "The election contest in the south riding of West Kootenay is over. The battle has been fought and won. Victory has rested with the opponents of the present government and Mr. John Fred Hume is the member elect. The constituency has rightly de-

clined. The issues were squarely presented and the contest has been decided largely upon their merits. From the beginning there was not much doubt about the result. The sentiment of the riding was against the policy of the government. The platform of the opposition was definite. Its enunciation of principles clear. The candidate took his stand firmly upon it. He spoke with no uncertain sound and won favor by the frankness of his enunciation. He has every reason to be proud of the support accorded him. His campaign was one of principles. He had no extraneous means or methods upon which he could rely. He did not seek them. He did not need them. The campaign has too happily been a clean one. There has been no public recrimination; no mud-slinging. Both candidates were irreproachable in their lives and no one has ventured, or could venture to say otherwise."

The Tribune talks no less decidedly. In its issue of the 21st it expressed the opinion that: "The result of the election in the south riding can only mean that the Davie government has not the confidence of the people, for in no constituency in the province were the issues more clearly defined." On the 28th it spoke as follows: "In commenting on the election in South Kootenay, the Revelstoke Mail says the contest was strictly personal one between Mr. Hume and his opponent and that Mr. Hume is in full accord with the government and will sit on the government side of the house. It then naively asks, if this be so, 'Has the Tribune been thrown overboard?' Mr. Hume was nominated by a convention that condemned the action of the government in the Nkusp and Shocan deal and for bringing down and passing an unfair redistribution measure; Mr. Hume was elected as an opposition candidate; and as Mr. Hume is known to be an honorable man, he will be found on the opposition side of the house at its next session." All of which is respectfully commended to the Colonist.

THE SALMON REGULATIONS.

When Mr. D. J. Munn pleaded guilty to depositing fish off in the Fraser, in contravention of Mr. Wilnot's previous regulations, he accompanied his plea with the following address to the court, which is well worth reproducing in full: "I plead guilty, your honor, and by your pleasure I wish to make a statement. In pleading guilty, I do so in the belief that it is utterly impossible for anyone to comply with the present law in its entirety. In the eyes of the regulations, I am not more guilty than every other canner operating on any river in British Columbia, and I may speak for others as well as myself in saying that any regulation which courts evasion by pretended compliance in things that are impossible, is not regarded with favor where high character is an important factor in carrying on business. The present law, as applied to fishing, is in any other way than by shutting down the industry. From a thorough acquaintance of the men engaged as cannery and fishermen, I venture to state that almost two-thirds of them are positively opposed to dumping the fish in the gulf at the entrance of the river. Why? Because they believe it to be injurious to the industry at present and to its future. The people so engaged not as much interested in the extermination of the industry, as one able of conceiving errors by their close observation and experience, as outsiders are? We have yet to learn of food having been found in the stomach of salmon caught within the river. That they feed in salt water is, of course, a well-known fact. Now, if I were to tell you that salmon were caught with fresh oil in their stomachs last week, some six miles from the entrance of the river, whether this food was picked up from Point Roberts or from the Fraser river dumping ground, it matters little, would you not feel concerned as to the effect of the dumping of hundreds of tons of it there would have on the salmon run? This has concerned many of us for some time, but I can tell you that cases in point were so observed by some of our fishermen at Sea Island cannery, although the fact was very recently discovered. I leave the consequences of the practice of putting oil there to the authorities who have induced and are now enforcing it. Meanwhile I enter my emphatic protest against their trifling with a matter so important to this community and the province."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

On looking over the country's financial situation and the government's subsidy policy the Toronto Mail comes to this conclusion: "Yet, if there was ever a time when we ought to be moderate in our expenditures and careful how we enter upon new enterprises, that time is the present. The government has been forced by the pressure of public opinion to reduce the customs imposts. What the consequence will be in the revenue will be it is impossible to estimate; but there can be little doubt that it will be considerable. The reduction will be more marked owing to the drop in the aggregate of impositions. In the United States the revenue has fallen \$70,000,000 through the restriction in the demand for outside goods; and we may depend upon it that our public income will also shrink from the same cause, though not to the same extent, nor even in the same ratio. The income for 1893-4 shows a total fall of a million and a

THE FIRST STRIKE.

The Flute Players of Rome Set the Example 300 Years Ago. Livy, in his famous work, "The Annals," ix., 30, relates in the following suggestive words the story of a strike which occurred at Rome in the year 300 B. C. and was probably the first strike ever known: "That year occurred an event little worthy of being related, and which I would pass in silence had it not appeared as involving religion. The flute players, dissatisfied because the latest senators had forbidden them to take part in the banquet in Jupiter's Temple, according to the ancient custom, withdrew, every one of them, to Tibur, so that nobody was left at Rome to play during the sacrifices. This incident shocked the religious sentiment of the senate, and the senators sent messengers to invite the inhabitants of Tibur to make every effort in order that the players should be restored to the banquet. The flute players, having promised not to neglect anything necessary for that purpose, caused the flute players to come to the place where the senate met and exhorted them to go back to Rome. Seeing that they could not prevail upon them to do so, they employed a stratagem in keeping with their character. On a day of festival, on a pretext that music would increase the joy of the feast, every citizen invited the flute players individually to his house, and wine, of which people of that profession are usually fond, was given to them in such quantities that they fell into a deep sleep. They were then thrown into wagons and transported to Rome. They only became aware of what had happened the day after, when dawn surprised them lying on the carts, which had been left in the Forum. A large crowd had assembled, and they were induced to promise that they would remain at Rome. The right of attending the banquets was restored to these flute players."

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

Table listing successful candidates for the Provincial Teachers' Examinations, including names like Enns, Florence Nightingale, and others, with their respective marks.

THE RESULT OF THE PROVINCIAL TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS RECENTLY HELD.

Table listing the results of the Provincial Teachers' Examinations, including names like Enns, Florence Nightingale, and others, with their respective marks.

RENEWAL CERTIFICATES FOR LENGTH OF SERVICE.

Table listing renewal certificates for length of service, including names like Bailey, Adelaide S., and others, with their respective marks.

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CANADIAN NEWS.

News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs. The Manitoba government says they can not grant assistance to the Manitoba South-eastern road. The Electric Street railway on Galt and Preston was officially opened for traffic the other day. The body of the late Patrick Purcell was on Saturday interred in the cemetery of the deceased resident, and interred for a second time. George Cliff, a young Englishman arrested for passing counterfeit bills in Montreal, was committed to the House of Correction on Monday. The Chinese ship Lion secured some news, but all reported killed. A large Chinese arm northwestern frontiers marching down the peninsula has been reported to have taken between the Chinese and Torpedoes have been weishan channel of the river in easy range of ship Lion rescued some official version between the Chinese and Japanese ships occurred one gulf, in the inlet were escorting a second vision of the troops did ku to reinforce the Asan. The Chinese having strict unless they were attacking of Chinese troops, result of the action in which ship Chen Yuen which was sunk by the chartered transport flag. No news has been the loss of the Chinese.