

EVENTS

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FOUR years ago there were 34 Liberals elected by acclamation to the Quebec Legislature. Last Friday there were 86 and one Conservative. By the time this paper is printed the contested elections will be over. In most of the seats either Liberals or Independents are running, but the Conservatives have candidates for every seat where they think they can win. The hottest fight of the campaign is in the St. Louis division of Montreal where, strange to say, the issue is between two Liberals, both supporters of the government of Premier Parent. There are altogether 74 members in the Legislative Assembly. In addition there is a Legislative Council of 24 appointed members, making a parliament of 98 members.

THE changes that are to take place in the Ontario government are understood to be as follows:—Mr. Stratton has resigned so as to secure time to attend to his private business. Mr. Gibson, the Attorney General goes out, probably for a similar reason, as does Mr. Davis. Mr. McKay of North Grey will be the new Comr. of Crown Lands, Mr. Charlton succeeds Mr. Latchford as commissioner of Public Works and Mr. Geo. P. Graham of Brockville will take the portfolio of Provincial Secretary. Like Mr. Stratton Mr. Graham is a newspaper man, so that one journalist succeeds another. Mr. Latchford was said to be desirous of retiring from the department of Public Works but at the Premier's special request will remain in the government as Attorney General. Mr. Harcourt retains the portfolio of Education and Mr. Dryden that of Agriculture. With this reconstructed government Mr. Ross will probably appeal to the people for a renewal of confidence. There is ahead one of the fiercest fights the province has ever known, and it ought to be over before Christmas.

IT has always been maintained in these columns that specific duties were the hallmark of your real protective tariff. Even the Dumping Clause is not well regarded by protectionists, to judge by the following editorial from the organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association:—

The Dumping Clause of the Fielding Tariff Act of 1904 is a purely protectionist measure. Mr. Fielding in introducing it did not pretend that it was designed for any other purpose than to give protection to Canadian industries. There was no pretext that while it might incidentally protect Canadian industries, its chief object was to provide revenue. There was never introduced in any legislative body in the world a measure whose aim was more unqualifiedly protective; and yet, if it were generally accepted as representing the views of protectionists, it might do more harm to the cause than any measure ever devised by Canadian opponents of protection. A policy that causes continual annoyance to almost every business man in the country cannot be long maintained, and that is what the Dumping Clause is likely to do. The great majority of business men, whether manufacturers or merchants, require to import some of the articles they use or sell. This is true in the most highly protected countries as well as in the low tariff countries. Every business man, therefore, is interested in having a tariff law that can be easily understood and administered with fair and equal treatment for all importers. From the business man's standpoint it does not matter so much how high the duty is, if he knows beforehand exactly what he has to pay, and is sure that all his competitors must pay exactly the same as he does. The Dumping Law upsets all the calculations of the business man. With this system of protection in force he can seldom tell what duty he will have to pay on imported articles until the decision of the customs officer has been given. He cannot be sure that some rival merchant will not get better terms than he does. Not only will dishonest importers be able to evade the law, but honest merchants who have conscientiously given what they regarded