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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1913

THE COUNTY VALUATION

Elsewhere in this issue we are able to give to our readers the figures of the valuation of the County which has been made during the last few months. It shows an increase in the assessable value of the property in the county of upwards of \$3,000,000 over that shown by the valuation of 1900. A remarkable feature is the great increase in the value of property in Newcastle, which twelve years ago was rated at \$563,285 and has since reached a value of no less than \$1,103,550, practically double the former figures. The parish of Newcastle has also very largely increased in value, the figures being \$550,085, as against \$322,043 in 1900, an increase of nearly 45 per cent. The Town of Chatham has increased in value about 30 per cent, the figures being \$1,824,950, as against \$1,301,150 on the previous valuation. Chatham parish, however, has more than doubled in value in that time. All the other parishes in the County show very respectable gains, which is a very sure guide to the general prosperity which its citizens enjoy.

SIGNS OF WEAKENING

Although Parliament has only been sitting a week, signs are becoming daily more apparent that the Opposition have lost some of that "cock-sureness" which was so prominent a feature in their demeanor with regard to the Government's naval policy before they separated for the Christmas recess. At that time, they were so certain that the country at large was dead against any such policy, that they threatened to hold up all business, stop the Estimates and compel the Government to go to the country on the navy issue. But since the visit to their constituencies, a great change seems to have come over the spirit of their dream, and they have returned to Ottawa as meek as lambs, and evidently prepared to let the Naval Bill pass the House to the accompaniment of a more or less perfunctory debate only.

That it lies in the power of a minority opposition to delay the passing of a measure or even to prevent its adoption for one session at least is unquestionable, owing to the unlimited freedom of debate that the present parliamentary practice permits. There is no closure rule, and any member can speak as long as he likes, and if the House is in Committee, as often as he likes, if he can only get possession of the floor. Under these conditions obstruction simply consists in the continuous talking by opponents of a measure, thereby preventing its being brought to a vote. This was the plan of campaign which reports credited the Opposition with intending to carry out, but evidently the time for sober reflection which the holidays permitted, has had a beneficial effect, and it is predicted in the lobbies now that the Bill will pass the Commons at an early date. At any rate the Government has caused it to be known that if the Opposition wishes to prolong the debate, they will have to provide all the speakers, in which case its continuation would be very monotonous.

The back down of Mr. Hugh Guthrie created somewhat of a sensation. His parting words when he moved the adjournment of the debate on December 18th, following Mr. Foster's speech was a bold challenge to the Conservatives to go to the country. His speech when he resumed after the vacation, instead of being of a fighting nature was exceedingly pacific and he wound up by holding out the olive branch in the shape of a compromise. As the compromise was practically in the nature of a proposal that the government should accept the Laurier naval idea it is not being treated seriously.

The back down on the part of Mr. Guthrie and general announcement of the majority of the members that they do not favor holding a snap election is regarded as a slap in the face of the ex-cabinet ministers, including particularly Hon. Sydney Fisher and Hon. McKenzie King, who have been stumping the country with a view to working up an agitation to compel an appeal to the country.

They were discredited enough before, but they are more discredited now. The Liberals in the House have resented their active interference in the councils of the party and it is believed that the present attitude of the rank and file is more or less of a deliberate attempt to force them into the background. Of course, there are still a few Liberals who are talking fight, but they are in the minority, for it is rapidly becoming more and more apparent that if ever during the past thirty years there was a measure that the people of Canada were overwhelmingly in favor of and were determined to see carried out, it is the measure providing for the doing of something now towards Imperial naval defence. To obstruct the measure is possible, but it will only be a temporary damping of the stream of popular will. It is said that an effort will be made to force a snap election.

parties to come together, so that the house can present a solid front. It certainly would present Canada in a more dignified light should this be the case.

THE INCONSISTENCY OF MR. PUGSLEY

In the course of a somewhat lengthy speech on the Naval Bill in the Commons a few evenings ago, Dr. Pugsley condemned the Government for not adopting the policy of their predecessors of having battleships built in Canada, and he stoutly maintained that it would be quite possible to have shipyards in operation in this country within a year or two, which within the space of three or four years at most, would be turning out Dreadnoughts as fast as Canada could pay for them. He further asserts that the government in taking the course they have are not studying the interests of the country; for if they took steps to establish shipyards here, it would mean providing work for several thousand Canadians, it would stir up trade, and keep in circulation at home many millions of dollars. The fact that the battleships can be built for considerably less money in England than here does not seem to have any weight with Dr. Pugsley; his idea is simply that home industry should be encouraged and manufacturing built up in this country even if it should result in the manufactured article costing more money. In other words, he would protect and help to build up home industries—when it suits his political game.

But ask Dr. Pugsley if he is prepared to foster home industries by the imposition of a protective tariff, and then see where he stands. He and his party have never ceased to vituperate the manufacturers, because they saw in the reciprocity proposals the thin end of the wedge of Free Trade with the United States, and therefore they opposed such proposals. He is not prepared to help to build up home industries by protecting them against the inroads of foreign manufacturers who are able to conduct their business under such conditions as permit them to undersell Canadians in the latter's own markets. He is quite willing in fact most anxious, to enter into trade arrangements with the U. S., under which the manufacturers of that country may obtain their raw material from Canada on the easiest possible terms, in order that they may sell the finished article back to the people of this country at enormous profits to themselves, while our own manufacturers stand outside and see themselves undersold on their own ground. With tears in his eyes he protests against robbing the Canadian workman of his chance of earning a living as a shipwright, but he has no objection to a system that prevents him getting work in other lines because foreign competition by restricting the demand for home made goods, limits the employment of skilled labor.

Mr. Pugsley must belong to that class whom the poet—was it Dryden?—had in mind when he wrote

Stiff in opinion, always in the wrong
Everything by turns and nothing long;
Who in the course of one revolving moon,
Was chemist, fiddler, statesman and buffoon.

PREMIER FLEMING

The report is current that Hon. J. K. Fleming contemplates an early retirement from the arena of provincial politics; and according to the Gleaner, when he was asked by a representative of that paper as to the truth or otherwise of such reports he made the more or less evasive reply that "there is no immediate prospect of a change."

The retirement of Mr. Fleming would be a distinct loss to the province, which has prospered amazingly since he became a member of the government. As Provincial Secretary and Receiver General he was mainly responsible for evolving something like order out of the chaos which had existed in the provincial finances for so many years, and in the subsequent establishment of a businesslike system of keeping accounts. He has always shown himself ready to lend an attentive ear to any representations which might be made to him, and wherever possible to remedy any grievances which were brought to his notice. As a statesman he has shown himself entirely capable of taking a broad and comprehensive view of the many difficult questions which have cropped up during his tenure of office, while as a debater he is entitled to a seat among the best.

Only in one respect would Mr. Fleming's retirement bring about an improvement in affairs, and that is that it would necessitate the re-organization of the government, when the probabilities are that the gentleman on whom his mantle would fall, will cut himself loose from the thralldom of coalition and all that pertains to it, and Northumberland will then get a square deal, even though it would lose cabinet representation.

The Transcript asks "Can any reader name any one piece of first class original legislation introduced by Mr. R. L. Borden since he became Premier?" Mr. Borden has been in office for only one session, practically the whole time of which was taken up in an attempt to straighten out the infernal muddle into which the late Government had got the country's affairs.

In one respect "Micawber" was a very appropriate nom de plume to adopt. That gentleman was always waiting for something to turn up. So was the "backboard politician" who has adopted his name, only when the "something" that the latter wanted, didn't turn up his way, he promptly turned tail. This shows his superiority.

HOW THE GRITS HOLD ON TO POWER WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

"It Does Not Matter Whether You Are an Indian, a Chinese, or a Hottentot, Just Swear That You Are Entitled to Vote and We'll Put You on the List"—And it Was So.

At the provincial general election held in Saskatchewan a few months ago the Liberal government was sustained because thousands of immigrants, who were not British subjects and therefore not entitled to vote, were permitted to go to the polls and cast their ballots. The immigrants did this at the request of the Liberal candidates who said they would protect these voters in the exercise of the franchise.

In order to open the way for this particular piece of iniquity the Scott government had nullified the election oath at the previous session of the local legislature.

The original oath required of a voter was to the effect that he was a British subject of the full age of twenty one years, that he had resided a year in the province, and three months in the constituency, and that he had not voted before in the same election. This was changed so that a voter had to swear only that he was entitled to a vote in the election and the Liberal candidates took pains to impress upon the voters that the only qualification was to have their names on the list.

To carry out the scheme effectively the lists were of course stuffed with the names of newcomers of all nationalities who were instructed to vote without fear of consequences whether they were British subjects or not. One Liberal candidate issued a circular containing these words:

"It does not matter whether you are an Indian, a Chinese or a Hottentot, if your name is on the list you can vote."

Under these circumstances Premier Scott was returned to power, and after winning with loaded dice, he and his party began to proclaim

the victory a triumph for reciprocity. Quite a number of Liberal victories have been won with stuffed ballot boxes, and switching ballots, and even by claiming big Liberal majorities in polls held in the wilderness where there were no voters, but this is the first occasion on which the trick was turned by the help of foreigners.

The Grits are ashamed of the fraud themselves and they are trying to cover it up by hurling charges at the Conservatives in connection with the by-election in Macdonald, Manitoba. They are so ashamed of it that they now propose to restore the election oath to its original form and the attorney general of Saskatchewan has a bill before the House for that purpose.

But the only thing they are ashamed of is that they were found out and exposed. They do not carry their repentance so far as to resign the seats of power which they have obtained by grossly dishonest means. To make reparation in that drastic manner would be regarded by all full-fledged Grits as very quixotic indeed. Doubtless the restored oath will be maintained until it suits the convenience of Premier Scott and his backers to call on the voters from foreign lands again.

In order to make this scheme workable on short notice they should send over to Southern Italy and Greece and Galicia and Southern Russia, and get the names of those who are likely to emigrate thence to Canada within the next twelve months and put them on the list to be used as occasion may arise. They should also take out a patent for this method of overriding the popular will and holding the reins of government.

NEW SHOOTING APPLIANCE INCREASES ACCURACY OF AIM

Will Revolutionise Naval Gunnery and Improve Marksmanship.—Projectiles May be Fired From Ten Great Guns Simultaneously.

The adoption of a revolutionary appliance upon Vice-Admiral Sir Percy Scott in the New York's Honours List is regarded in naval circles as final confirmation of the report which has been current for some time, that this officer's new invention, the fire director, has been adopted by the Admiralty for the whole Fleet.

As there are over fifty battleships and battle cruisers to be equipped, apart from certain armored cruisers and in the case of four new vessels the position of the funnels may have to be changed, the decision will involve a very heavy expense which is estimated at half a million sterling, and may even exceed this sum.

But the outlay will be relatively small, writes a naval correspondent if the director leads—as there is assurance that it will—to a general and astonishing improvement in the hitting power of the Fleet.

It is reported that the Thunderer, which was equipped experimentally with the Scott director, recently fired with an accuracy from 300 to 400 per cent. greater than the Orion which was not so equipped. If any such increase in the ability of the Navy as a whole to hit the enemy in the early stages of an action can be attained, then the fighting efficiency of the Fleet will stand exceedingly high.

The new appliance has been submitted to a series of exhaustive tests, and these have been uniformly successful. A few weeks ago the First Lord accompanied by other members of the Board, witnessed in the Channel a final duel in which the new battleship Thunderer, with the director, was pitted against the Orion, without the director, both ships firing their ten 13.5 in. guns, under exactly the same conditions, at a range of about 8,000 yards, or about four and a half miles. This test confirmed the results obtained in a series of firings by the same ship off Borehaven. Although no details were officially communicated, it is stated that the Thunderer scored about four times as many hits as the Orion.

When it is remembered that each shell of a 13.5 in. gun weighs 1,250 lb and that under the Scott system it is possible to discharge at an immense velocity a projectile from each of the ten great guns simultaneously, some conception can be formed of the importance of any contri-

but which enables the guns of a battleship to be placed accurately at any given part of a hostile ship or ships.

A Dreadnought of the latest type at a single broadside can thus hit an enemy, if all the shots are accurate, with rather more than five and a half tons of metal. There are eight Dreadnoughts in each of the first two squadrons of the Home Fleet, and consequently, if all the weapons were directed to fire at once, they would send projectiles weighing nearly ninety tons on their deadly mission at one discharge. The percentage of shells which "got home" in the first round of a sea duel might decide the fate of the Empire. Hence the importance of the Admiralty's decision to adopt the new director, which will raise the fleet's hitting ability 300 or 400 per cent.

The need for good gunnery was never greater than today, because the whole conception of the Dreadnought design rests on quick and accurate firing, with a relatively small number of great guns of one type, at a maximum range, instead of random firing with a large number of guns of various type at a moderate range. The Scott director enables the greater power to be exerted by one of these huge ships and exerted in the right direction and at the right moment.

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WILL GIVE \$10,000,000 FOR AGRICULTURE

Hon. Martin Burrell has given notice of a resolution providing \$10,000,000 during ten years, ending on March 11, 1924, for the purpose of aiding and advancing the farming industry by instruction in agriculture, including work carried on at veterinary colleges. The Government thus is energetically fulfilling its promise to aid agriculture. This

sum by far the largest ever devoted to the country's basic industry, is specially intended to promote educational work. Work will proceed along lines which have been laid down by C. C. James as a result of his survey of the industry over the entire Dominion. It is understood that Messrs. James and Burrell have worked out a well defined scheme for expenditure of the money on extremely practical lines. Distribution of the grant will be largely on basis of population.