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Grand Conservative Victory

In the by-elections, in the Belfast and Fort Augustus districts, on Wednesday last, 15th, the Local Liberal Government received its death blow. The Conservative candidates, Dr. Dewar and Professor Alexander McPhail, were elected by overwhelming majorities. Dr. Dewar's majority over Premier Palmer was 378 and Professor McPhail's majority over Mr. Nash in the Belfast district was 240. In the Fort Augustus district the election was run on the franchise vote; and in the Belfast district on the property vote. It will thus be seen that the majorities in both districts were splendid. At the general election in 1908, Mr. Palmer had a majority of 106 over his opponent, and in Belfast Mr. Hazard, then Premier, had a majority over his opponent of 116. The vote on Wednesday stood as follows: In the Fort Augustus district, Dewar 892; Palmer 514; and in the Belfast district the vote was: McPhail 568; Nash 328. Dr. Dewar had a majority in every one of the fifteen polls but one. The exception was Brackley Point Road, where Palmer had a majority of 9. In 1908 this same pole gave Palmer a majority of 60. This will give some idea of the change in public feeling towards the moribund Government. In like manner, Prof. McPhail had a majority in every poll except Pownall, where Nash had a majority of 19. In this poll Hazard had a majority of 74 in 1908. These facts furnish fair evidence of the wonderful revulsion of feeling against what was left of the twenty year old Liberal Government.

The result of the two by-elections is the exact reversal of the standing of parties in the Legislature, as compared with last session. Then the Government had sixteen, including the Speaker and the Opposition had fourteen, leaving the Government a majority of one on the floor of the House. Now the Conservatives have sixteen and the Liberals have fourteen; consequently the Liberal Government is defeated, being in a minority in the Legislature. The people have withdrawn their confidence, and whatever usefulness the Government has had is now completely gone.

Mr. Palmer's premiership was beset with difficulties from the beginning. The Government was as good as defeated when he took it over in May last. It had only been held together by Mr. Hazard long enough to secure a good office for himself; the rump that was left was then turned over to Mr. Palmer to do the best he could with it. Instead of trying his luck with the by-elections, at once, Mr. Palmer allowed matters to drift, hoping for something to turn up. Something did turn up that proved disastrous to him. The Dominion elections came on; Laurier was hurled from power, and poor Palmer was left on the rocks. The last prop was knocked from under the moribund administration; and as soon as the electorate got a chance they left nothing of the Government but a memory.

As a matter of fact, the results of the by-elections on Wednesday last show that the Local Government had long

since lost whatever confidence the people had in it. It was only the influence and patronage of the Federal Government that kept it in existence at all. The advantage of the two "Governments in line" constituted the stock in trade of the arguments used by the members of the Local Government in their appeals to the people for support. Whenever the Government at Ottawa changed, the local combination lost its cohesion, and at the first breath of public opinion fell to pieces like a house of cards.

Nothing is yet known as to the course determined upon by the defeated Government. Probably they themselves have not decided upon their course of action. But it surely cannot be very long till they hand in their resignation and advise the Lieutenant Governor to send for the Leader of the Opposition to form a new Administration.

The Speech From The Throne.

In another column we publish the speech with which his Royal Highness, the Governor General, opened the Parliamentary session at Ottawa. A perusal of this document will show the most casual observer that the legislative programme foreshadowed therein is of the utmost importance to the people in every Province of the Dominion. The speech clearly indicates that the platform, with which Mr. Borden won his great victory on September 21st, was not made up of mere pre-election promises, having no meaning. Premier Borden has proved himself a man of his word. Parliament will have before it during the present session legislation of far-reaching importance, in which every Province of the Dominion has a vital interest. We can scarcely present the matter under review in more concise language than the following from the St. John Standard:

Notably it is this case in the announcement that a bill will be introduced to provide the country with better highways. The Government, in fulfilment of Mr. Borden's promise, is prepared to cooperate with the Provinces in the construction of permanent roads. The impetus which will be given to the work of improving the highways by the addition of Federal aid cannot be overestimated. It will mean much to the farmers, and in fact to the rural population throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Of equal, if not greater importance, is the promised introduction of a measure for co-operation between the Dominion and the various Provinces for the encouragement of agriculture. The Government recognizes that success in this great industry is the basis on which the prosperity of Canada rests. The bill, which will be introduced into Parliament at an early date, is designed to accomplish two notable objects—the assistance and encouragement of the farmers to secure the best results in production, and the preservation of the fertility of the soil. A campaign of education and co-operation along these lines, with the addition of substantial aid from the Dominion treasury, is a policy every farmer will appreciate.

The introduction of a bill to establish a permanent tariff commission is a guarantee that every industry in Canada will receive due consideration, and that complaints and discrepancies in the tariff will be adjusted before an impartial tribunal. The Canadian people will not fail to contrast Mr. Borden's prompt and business like announcement with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's failure to grapple with this great question. During his tour of

the West the late Premier gave a definite pledge to appoint a commission before any change in the tariff was made, subsequently confirming this decision on the floors of Parliament. The contempt with which Sir Wilfrid treated this solemn pledge is now history. Without warning or mandate, the pilgrimage to Washington was arranged, and all the strength of the Liberal Government was combined to force Reciprocity on an unwilling people. The ignominious defeat of the Liberal Administration was the direct result. In Mr. Borden's manifesto, issued prior to his tour of the West, the promise of a permanent tariff commission, if returned to power, was definitely given and reiterated by the Conservative leader at every meeting. His prompt acknowledgment of his responsibility, as outlined in the speech from the throne, is convincing evidence that in Mr. Borden the people have a man whose word they can rely upon, and whose pledge they can trust.

Other matters of importance to come before Parliament include the improvement of trade arrangements with the British West Indies and British Guiana; a revision of the acts relating to the inspection of grain, and a bill to establish a commission to secure Government control and operation of the terminal elevators on the Great Lakes. The selection of the best routes for the Hudson Bay railway will also be the subject of enquiry. The Government starts on its legislative career with a well considered and practical programme, progressive in the subjects dealt with and appealing in its scope to every section of this wide community. No speech from the throne for many years has placed before the people so comprehensive and popular an announcement of coming legislation.

Niobe Court Martial.

In the court martial proceedings at Halifax, relative to the stranding and damaging of the war ship Niobe on the dangerous ledges off Cape Sable, on July 10th, last, Lieutenant Lord Allister Graham was found guilty of causing or suffering to be caused, the stranding and damage in question. He was sentenced to be reprimanded. Lord Allister Graham was officer of the watch up to fifteen or twenty minutes of the time the cruiser went ashore. Navigating Lieutenant White was found guilty of suffering the Niobe to be stranded through negligence. The sentence is that he be severely reprimanded and dismissed from the Niobe. In view of his former good character he is not dismissed from the service or reduced in rank. Capt. Macdonald was found not guilty. His sword was returned to him.

Prince Edward Island is not the only Province in which demoralization has invaded the local Liberal party since the downfall of the Laurier Government. As stated in a previous issue, by elections for the Alberta Legislature in four constituencies, three previously held by Liberals, all went Conservative. Nova Scotia follows suit. In two by-elections held on the 15th, two Conservatives were elected in constituencies previously held by Liberals. Thus the good cause goes on triumphing.

Mr. Wm. Pugsley is quoted as saying that there is much good work to be done by a party in Parliament sitting on the Opposition side. Recent events have evidently given a philosophic bent to Mr. Pugsley's mind. It is to be hoped he will like the work. He may have a long turn at it. Montreal Gazette.

The sum of \$11,761,000, representing the amount of the catch of Canada's sea fish, will give some idea to inlanders of the value of this asset to the country for the past six months.—Hamilton Spectator.

If the old proverb holds that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Hon. W. J. Hanna is receiving it in plenty for his achievement in connection with the prison farm work. Manitoba is the latest to take up the idea, and a strong sentiment is developing in the Western Province in favor of the humanitarian plan that has proven so successful in Ontario.—London Free Press.

Dominion Parliament.

Brilliant Opening Ceremonies.

The Speech From The Throne.

Wednesday last 15th inst. was the opening day of the Parliamentary session at Ottawa. But as this was the beginning of a new Parliament, the first day proceedings were of a simple routine character. First the members elect the House of Commons were sworn in; they were then summoned to the Senate chamber, where Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Deputy of the Governor General presided. After asking the usual question on such occasions, whether or not the members of the Commons had chosen a speaker, and being answered in the negative, the members returned to their chamber and elected Dr. Spruille Speaker. The House then adjourned till Thursday.

The following account of the formal opening on Thursday is from the Ottawa correspondent of the St. John Standard:—In the Dominion capital at 3 o'clock a big gun pounded the crisp winter air proclaiming that a British prince had come to open a Canadian Parliament in Canada. At the sound the great crowd

which had assembled about the parliament building broke into a cheer, before the second gun of the salute boomed out a cavalry escort attired through the east gate and with pennons snapping at their lance ends whirled up the hill. Close after the troop came the Royal coach, a blast of scarlet, black and gold, four blooded bays with scarlet clad postillions on their backs, drew the coach in which were seated their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and military secretary, H. C. Lowther. The carriage was open and the crowds were able to see the fine figure which the duke made in the scarlet uniform of a British Field Marshal. The Royal coach attracted almost as much attention as the Royal party. It is a mass of decoration worked out in gold on a black ground, which is most striking. The guarded equipage drove up to the Senate entrance where a guard from the Governor General's Foot guards was drawn up with the regimental band. The guard presented arms and the band broke into the royal anthem as the royal party dismounted and entered the building. The picture was as fine as has ever been seen on a bright Canadian winter's day. Inside the scene was no less brilliant. The Duke and Duchess found the Senate chamber packed with Senators, officials, their wives and daughters on the floor, while the galleries were jammed with the privileged public which has succeeded in obtaining tickets for the occasion. The military were there in brilliant uniforms, the judges of the Supreme Court in scarlet and ermine were seated upon the woolpack before the throne. Representatives of foreign countries and of the churches were present in ceremonial garb. The Senators in conventional black provided the sombre contrast needed to set out the uniformed gorgeousness of official persons and the bank of female loveliness on either side of the chamber.

The ladies in evening dress were seated on the ascending side of the room where the Senators usually sit. It was a brilliant picture. The Duke and Duchess took their places on the two thrones which had been placed at the head of the room upon the dais. It was the first occasion since the time of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise that a woman

has sat beside a Governor General at an opening of parliament. It is a privilege reserved for princesses.

At the command of Speaker Landry Major St. Denis Lemoine, the Acting Black Rod, was sent to summon the Commons. He delivered his message in two languages to the waiting members and the Speaker of the Commons, following the sergeant at arms and unseated, led the Commons to the senate chamber, where His Royal Highness, having been officially informed that the Commons had elected their speaker, read the speech from the throne, first in English and then in French. The Royal party then retired and the Commons returned to their chamber where Premier Borden introduced the formal bill respecting the oaths of office which preserves the traditional rights of parliament to deal with its business before that of the crown.

In the senate the formal bill, which relates to railway, was introduced by Government Leader Loughheed.

The speech with which His Excellency the Duke of Connaught opened Parliament was as follows: Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It is with much satisfaction that I meet for the first time the Parliament of Canada and avail myself of your advice and assistance in the fulfilment of the important charge which has been entrusted to me by His Majesty the King. I can assure that I esteem it a privilege to administer the affairs of this prosperous and growing Dominion and to associate myself with you in the important duties which you are about to approach. It affords me great pleasure to congratulate you upon the continued and increasing prosperity of the country. Our trade both with British and with foreign countries is rapidly expanding and there is every prospect that its volume in the present year will be largely in excess of that attained at any time in the past.

Although there has been some damage to the crops in certain districts, the harvest has on the whole been abundant and it is believed that the returns to the husbandman will exceed those of any previous year.

The results of the census taken during the present year will be laid before you so far as they have been tabulated. While the increase in population has not fulfilled all the sanguine expectations that had been formed, yet it has been substantial and encouraging. You will be pleased to learn that the revenues for the current fiscal year have, up to the present, largely exceeded those during any similar period in the past, with every prospect that this increase will be maintained. The advantage that will result from a wider exchange of products between the various countries of the Empire are undoubted in view of the wonderful variety and extent of those productions and negotiations have been opened for improved trade arrangements with the British West Indies and British Guiana, which should prove advantageous to those colonies as well as to this Dominion.

The importance of providing our country with better highways is manifest. A bill will be introduced for the purpose of enabling the Dominion to cooperate with the Provinces in the accomplishment of this desirable object. It is essential to recognize that in a country possessing so great an area of fertile land as that with which this Dominion is happily endowed, the great basic industry is agriculture. My advisers are convinced that the time has come when greater aid and encouragement should be given to those who are engaged in the cultivation of the land. To this end, a measure will be introduced under which it is hoped that there may be co-operation between the Dominion and the various Provinces for the purpose of assisting and encouraging our farmers to secure the best results in production and at the same time preserve the fertility of the soil.

A measure will be introduced revising and consolidating the acts relating to the inspection of grain and providing the means by which the government can secure, through a commission, the control and operation of the terminal elevators upon the great lakes. A bill will be introduced to establish a permanent tariff commission whose duty it shall be to ascertain by investigation and inquiry such information as will

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