

THE HERALD

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North Bruce.

In the by-election for the House of Commons held in North Bruce, Ontario, on Tuesday of last week, Tolmie, Liberal, was successful with a majority of about 350. The Grit papers are making quite a hullabaloo about the result, claiming it as a great Liberal victory. It is true the seat was carried in 1904 by a Conservative with a small majority; but when all the circumstances are taken into account the reversal of this at the recent by-election can scarcely be regarded in the light of a change of political sentiment in the riding. North Bruce as formerly constituted was a very close constituency. From 1872 to 1882 it returned a Liberal at every election. In 1882 McNeill, Conservative captured the riding by a majority of 83. From 1882 to 1900, McNeill held the riding, but with very small majorities; in 1900 he had a majority of only 3. McNeill died and in a by-election in 1901 Halliday, Conservative, carried the riding by a majority of 11. Observing the tenacity with which the riding held to Conservative principles, the Laurier Government determined to fix it by gerrymandering into North Bruce, the Riding of West Bruce, which was a traditional Grit constituency. In 1900 West Bruce went Liberal by 423; consequently when this Riding was incorporated into North Bruce the reconstructed constituency had a normal majority of about 400 and the Conservatives of the old riding of North Bruce were disfranchised. In the general election of 1904, Tolmie, who had been the Grit member for West Bruce wanted the nomination for the new Riding; but he was beaten in the convention by Campbell. This greatly angered Tolmie and his friends and they determined to give Campbell no assistance in the election. The result was that Bland, Conservative, was returned by a majority of 107, Bland died and Tolmie was brought out by the Grits for the by-election which he succeeded in carrying as above stated. The gerrymander effected its intended result. But the success of Mr. Tolmie was not altogether left to the gerrymander. "Machine" politics and "human devices" were very much in evidence, and we may hear more about this election. In this connection the attitude of the Patriot is quite remarkable. This daily paper that has, up to the present time, furnished no evidence that it has heard of by-elections in East Elgin and North Renfrew, immediately proclaims the result of the North Bruce contest, prefacing its account with display head lines in type large enough for show-posters. Then it works itself up into white heat over the matter. It insinuates that the Liberals of North Bruce were not so foolish as to pay any attention to the exposure of the London "election scandals" effected "by Magistrate Denison," and that "the sooner the Denison faction, who are engaged in exposing Liberal election frauds" are knocked out of business the better." No doubt the Patriot and its friends are very much chagrined over the exposures of Grit election scandals in London and elsewhere; but who would have thought that the sheet would be so unguarded as to blurt out to the world an expression of the keen anguish it feels over even a partial exposure of its favorite election "methods" of its political friends and supporters? Wait till we hear exposed in the course the methods by which the Grits conducted the North Bruce election!

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds.

Rogues Disagreeing.

The fight between different sections of the Liberals in Quebec County during the recent election contest was the cause of some surprising revelations by some of the Government organs. Certain Government favorites, in receipt of large sums in the shape of rakes-off, gave their support to Robitaille instead of Amyot, Sir Wilfrid's nominee. This so enraged the organs in question that, with involuntary candor, they blurted out the story of several of these dishonest boodling transactions. Among the papers that so far forgot their cunning as to engage in these exposures was Le Soleil, which professes to speak especially for Sir Wilfrid. The Quebec Chronicle, referring to these exposures, thus refers to Le Soleil's participation in the public confession: "Week after week it had been drawing on the assumed mental incapacity of its readers to assure them there were no such things as rakes-off, and that all tales to the contrary were wicked Tory inventions not worth paying attention to, but, as the fight progressed, and Mr. Robitaille's prospects of success waxed greater, whilst those of Mr. Amyot diminished in proportion. It grew spiteful, and more than hinted at its knowledge of a rake-off which had apparently been going on for years. It boasted that the Government departments are in the habit of buying every year some six hundred thousand gallons of methylated spirits from two firms of distillers and a certain Quebec politician, getting a judicious hint, informed these firms that the Government intended to buy a quarter of that amount or a hundred and fifty thousand gallons from him. Thereupon the firms interested proceeded to buy him off, and engaged to pay him the modest sum of sixteen thousand dollars per annum, if he would only efface himself. The arrangement must have been in force for six years at least, for Le Soleil calculated that the Quebec politician has already received ninety-six thousand dollars for the not very difficult task of doing nothing. Now Le Soleil is not only a Government organ, but it is supposed to be very closely indeed in touch with the chiefs, and it is highly improbable that this rake-off should have been going on for six years without its being aware of this fact; yet it is only when the rakeroff has incurred its displeasure that it takes the public into its confidence." In view of this statement by the principal Government organ in Quebec, the question will naturally arise; what kind of profits are these firms making out of their deal with the Government that they can afford to pay such a large sum to retain it? What manner of Government has the country got that such transactions are possible under it? This is only an isolated case; there are hundreds of others. Some of them were exposed by the opposition last session; and next session we may expect a continuance of these exposures, if the Government will not too successfully block the way. Is that the kind of a Government the people of Canada want?

Comment on Mr. Fielding's Election.

In his comment on the result of the election in Shelburne and Queen's, the Mail and Empire, among other things say: "Finance Minister Fielding has been re-elected for Queens and Shelburne by a majority of nearly 900. This circumstance is calculated to set people thinking. In November, 1904, Mr. Fielding carried the constituency by a majority of 385. The election was corrupt. The agents of Mr. Fielding purchased so many votes that the courts unanimously vacated the seat. Had there been but a few purchases Mr. Fielding could have held the constituency. But seeing that the bribery was committed on so large a scale as to make it apparent that if there had been a clean election Mr. Fielding would not have been returned the court had to declare that the Minister was not really elected. Since the election of Mr. Field-

ing by the purchase of a sufficiently large number of votes to give him a majority of 385 the public has learned a good deal with reference to the operation at Ottawa. It has been discovered that dishonesty pervades the departments. Politicians enjoy "rakes-off" on public business. Land required for the Government is bought by middlemen and is resold to the Government at three times the market price. Land for sale by the Government is passed to other middlemen, who get it for a song and sell it at an enormous advance. It has also been learned that the Government has in operation a system by which it either buys votes or robs the people of their franchises through the manipulation of the voters' lists or the ballot boxes. The revelations have been such as to startle the civilized world. They are matters of comment wherever the English language is spoken. The London press has just voiced the horror with which respectable people view the awful operations of the Laurier Government. "Can anybody believe that the people of Queens and Shelburne have been so delighted by the revelations recently made that they have changed the bought majority of 385 in 1904 to a clean and voluntary majority of nearly 900 in 1906? Will it be assumed that the electors having knowledge of the rogery which takes place at Ottawa have rushed to the polls to endorse it? The verdict of Queens and Shelburne is suggestive of the victories of the Ross Government in its last days. As the big majority at the Sault served to emphasize the villainy of the machine, so the unnatural Fielding majority in Queens and Shelburne is calculated to intensify the growing feeling against the Ottawa politicians."

An Attempted Defence Founded on Falsehood.

A few days ago we laid before our readers the main facts of one of the latest scandalous transactions of the Government, to be known as the Alberta Land Deal. In this transaction, carried on in the face of the exposure of the Saskatchewan Land Deal, the Government hands over more than 380,000 acres of land, at virtually \$1 an acre, to speculators who are confident of being able to sell these lands to settlers at from \$5 to \$25 an acre. The defence attempted to be set up by the Interior Department is that these were "arid lands" and unfit for settlement until such time as they are irrigated. Upon this attempted defence the Toronto Mail comments as follows:

"The defence is punctured with untruth, either direct or implied. In the first place, the lands are not arid lands. Mr. Saunders, the former assistant Government engineer of irrigation, has reported upon them, and he says 'the soil throughout the entire block is first class,' and the whole block—in its uncultivated state—produces 'a most luxuriant growth of nutritious grasses.' Another report says the soil and climate of the district permit of the production of practically all cereals, including both summer and winter wheat, and of fodder crops, vegetables, and small fruits. A strange country this, if it is 'arid.' The land which is turned over to a syndicate is not turned over as the defence states, that it may be irrigated. Three-fourths of it does not require irrigation and the syndicate has to irrigate but one-fourth of the entire area. The works to be constructed, namely, ditches, are not 'costly' to the syndicate. The terms are such that the country pays for these irrigation ditches and the company owns them. The scheme for making the country pay is operated through the arrangement under which the scale is made to the syndicate. Three dollars per acre is the price the syndicate has to give for the land. But if the syndicate provides the irrigation works to irrigate one-fourth of the block, then the price is reduced to \$1 an acre. In a word, we knock off \$3 an acre, or on the 380,000 acres no less a sum than \$760,000, to pay for the irrigation works."—Halifax Herald.

A Terrific Storm.

The terrific rain and wind storm that commenced on Wednesday last and continued almost unabated from that time up to today was one of the very worst that has ever visited this Province. Sunday it did not rain, but the wind blew at a terrific rate, forty miles an hour a considerable part of the time. On Monday the rain set in again and the weather was about as disagreeable as could reasonably be had at the same temperature.

Extraordinarily high tides constituted a feature of the storm. In addition to the Turret Bell, elsewhere referred to, a report comes from Priest Pond of another wrecked vessel. She was a large vessel loaded with dried fish, and she went to pieces. The crew were saved. No other marine accident of serious moment has been learned of along the Island coast; but many boats have been sunk and broken up at Tracadie, Bastico, Charlottetown and other places. In Charlottetown the eastern end of the new addition to the Prince of Wales College was blown down; many chimneys were blown down, including the high chimney of the Hotel Victoria, which crashed through the roof above the dining room Sunday morning. Innumerable trees were blown down and uprooted, and buildings of one kind and another throughout the country have been demolished out of the face. It has been such a storm in force and continuance as the "old-time inebriation" has not experienced. The probabilities are that we have not by any means learned the extent of the damage done. Telegraph wires are down in all directions and no news comes from the mainland. The storm prevented the Empress from returning from Point du Chene Friday and prevented her from leaving Summerside Monday. The Northumberland crossed between here and Pictou both days.

Big Steamer Ashore.

On Thursday night last, in the middle of the terrific storm and rain, the steamer Turret Bell, owned by McKenzie & Mann, and chartered by the Inverness Railway and Coal Company, to carry coal from Port Hastings to Montreal, was driven ashore head on at Cable Head, about six miles from Head St. Peter's Bay. She was on her way from Montreal to Port Hastings, empty. She went aground on a ledge of rocks, about two hundred yards from the shore, between Lewis's and McEwen's lobster factories. She lies on an even keel and appears to be in good condition. The tide was very high when she went aground, and when it receded there was not more than five feet of water at her bow. The waves break about three hundred yards outside of her and roll past her to the shore. On Saturday F. W. Hyndman, Esq., Lloyd's agent, visited the scene, and the captain sent a message ashore in a bottle, asking for assistance and desiring to have the owners notified. The sea was so high that no boats could live in it. The crew appeared to be all right on board. The fury of the storm and the tremendous force of wind on Sunday, blowing directly on shore drove the steamer further on to her rocky bed. Mr. Hyndman sent word to the owners and underwriters, and powerful tugs and other apparatus have been ordered to the scene. It seems extremely doubtful if the steamer can ever be got off. She is valued at \$100,000, and is insured for about three-fourths of her value.

Monday's intelligence from the steamer was to the effect that the gale of Sunday, had driven her within twenty yards of the shore and turned her round almost broadside on. The waves were dashing over her; but she was quite firmly planted on her rocky bed. The captain came ashore and reported the crew all right. The steamer was leaking a little, but not much anxiety was felt, as now the crew could be got off if necessary. The tug Douglas Thomas left Sydney Saturday night to come to the assistance of the steamer. A survey was held on the stranded steamer Turret Bell, yesterday, at Cable Head, by Lloyds surveyor, Pope Welsh, and Captain Brown of the Stanley, and T. G. Taylor of the Gulaars. They condemned the steamer, which will be abandoned by the owners to the underwriters who will pay the insurance, and dispose of the vessel as they deem fit. There was five feet of water in the steamer's hold. The captain and crew were expected to land last night and come to Charlottetown, whence they leave for their homes. The captain's wife was brought off the steamer in a boatman's chair, attached to a cable extending from the ship to the shore. On Saturday night the crew made an attempt to leave, but the heavy sea prevented them. The steamer is about 20 feet from the bank and will be high and dry at low tide. The stranding of the steamer is attributed to the strong current which carried her far out of the course.

B. E. White, General Manager of the Bank of Commerce, has publicly uttered a warning against the overdoing of land speculation in the West. It seems that fair sized towns are planning to be great cities, and little villages are planning to be great towns all in the course of a few years, and are laying out and advertising city and town lots accordingly. But the more prudent do not see a prospect of such a rapid increase in population as to make such cities and towns possible; and hence it is not improbable that many, trusting to glowing representations about a region of which they have no definite and certain knowledge, may buy town lots at town-lot prices, and afterwards find that for many years to come they will have only small patches of prairie more or less near a comparatively little town. This view does not deny that the resources and possibilities of the Canadian West are vast. But still it is well for people to remember that buying what they have not seen is always mere speculation, and that unless they first obtain some pretty definite and reliable information, there is a very large amount of risk.

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