



THE premier province of Ontario should take a real good look at itself in the glass these stirring days. As a collection of voters, it is all to the good. The politicians generally concede that the battlefield is in this province, which means that fewer voters here are believed to have made up their minds before they hear the final arguments. But do we hear so much about Ontario exporting public men to address the rest of the country? Not exactly. Sir Wilfrid Laurier of Quebec, Mr. Borden of Nova Scotia, Mr. Fielding of Nova Scotia, Mr. Fisher of Quebec, Mr. Roblin of Manitoba, Mr. Hazen of New Brunswick, Mr. Foster of New Brunswick, Mr. Lemieux of Quebec, Mr. Ames of Quebec, all come up or down to Ontario to present to our people the public questions of the day upon which they are about to be invited to render a verdict; but do we hear of our Ministers and home-grown leaders going to the other provinces to help them come to a decision? Yes; we do hear of Whitney journeying down to Montreal; but that is about all, and Whitney is not a federal politician.

THE days when Macdonald and Blake went out of this province to lead the Dominion seem to be over. D'Alton McCarthy had a following in Manitoba; and Sir Oliver Mowat was a Dominion-wide figure. We once had a Baldwin, a Brown, a Sandfield Macdonald, an Alexander Mackenzie. Once we did not think of Sir Richard Cartwright as in the very forefront of our heavy artillery; but how gladly would we welcome a man of his size in the arena of these arid times! Now Ontario should not sit down in slothful acceptance of such a condition of affairs. The dramatic manner in which her barrenness is being brought home to her in this campaign should sting her into action. The Maritime Provinces are doing nobly. They have given the Opposition its two chief leaders in spite of the fact that the Government leaders from that district have nearly obliterated the local Conservative party. They give to the Government the heir to the Premiership, and one of its most aggressive fighters. Quebec is doing well, too. It furnishes not only the Premier but one of his most eloquent lieutenants. Then in Mr. Fisher and Mr. Ames, it gives to the nation two of its most trusted public men. There is no better working Minister than Fisher, and no better working Oppositionist than Ames.

WE have a lot of good voters in Ontario, though. They make intelligent and interested political audiences. Every public man who comes here to address us pays us this compliment. There are exceedingly few "safe" constituencies in Ontario these days. Just

now there appear to be a large number safe for the Conservative party; but we do not have to go very far back to find most of them in the doubtful column. The men who vote in them are not bound to either party, though they may be running pretty steadily with one just now. No political party can stand such an operation, as the cutting out of the cancerous growth which fastened upon the local Liberals when the strong hand of Oliver Mowat was removed, without losing a great deal of blood and vitality. Naturally the party is still suffering from "shock," though the federal party is by no means the same individual as the "party" who went under the knife. But it is safe to say that the independent vote in Ontario is to-day a very large one, and one that can decide any election.

ONTARIO journalists, however, are riding the storm with a daring which makes their confreres elsewhere look like "veiled prophets." Mr. J. A. Macdonald has become very like one of the issues of the campaign. He is at all events one of the stoutest campaigners. The Conservatives attack him more fiercely than they do any of the Ontario Ministers which is a compliment that I am sure he appreciates. Mr. J. S. Willison, too, looked like an issue for about twenty-four hours. I cannot think that Mr. Macdonald was quite within the ethics of the profession in appealing to Mr. Willison to make a statement as to the honesty of the *Globe* during the latter's editorship. Suppose that the *Globe* had taken a certain course by order of the board of directors which Mr. Willison at the time did not see to be vicious, but upon which subsequent revelations had cast a baleful light, what would have been his position in the face of Mr. Macdonald's challenge? To have kept silent would have been to accuse himself; to have spoken would have been to betray what was practically a confidence.

SO big a figure does Mr. W. F. Maclean cut in politics that we have almost ceased to think of him as a journalist. He is a politician who owns a newspaper. And in this election he appears to be following his own road. Mr. Pugsley turned the lime-light on Mr. S. D. Scott of St. John the other day—one of the most forceful and convincing writers in the service of the Conservative party. But Mr. Scott has only an ephemeral vehicle in which to load his arguments for the market-place. In Halifax and Winnipeg, they are stirring up things in a sort of Roblin style; but it is hard to believe that it is effective with the calm and thinking independent voter. Most campaign speakers and writers are too much influenced by the people who immediately surround them. These latter are almost always extreme partisans, and judge the tastes and appetites of others by their own. But political argument should aim to persuade the doubtful—not to inflame those already sure, and liable to be intoxicated into foolish violence.

*Nidmporte*

## AT THE LADIES' GOLF TOURNAMENT, LAMBTON



Mrs. C. Mussen, of Montreal, Runner-up.



Approaching the Eighth Hole, Final Game, October 2nd.



Miss Mabel Thomson, St. John, N. B., Champion for the fifth time.