

Twice-a-Week Times

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THE ELECTIONS.

The result of the election held Thursday was surprising, not to say startling. The most sanguine Liberal in the province hardly expected, after summing up the situation in his mind, to carry a majority of the constituencies. Neither did he anticipate such a veritable landslide. The sweeping victory, in our opinion, may be ascribed to four primal causes: The thorough disorganization of the Liberal party, the change of leadership of the Liberal party just on the eve of the election, the superb organization of the Conservative party, and the railway policy brought down by the Premier.

The last of the forces mentioned was probably the most potent of the influences working in and determining the mind of the electorate. The people are determined to have railways. They are at present not in the mood to consider that railways may be procured at too great a price. They accepted the assurance of the Prime Minister that the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway from the Yellowhead Pass to the west coast of Vancouver Island will not cost them a cent. Mr. McBride, in our opinion, has assumed a great responsibility, a responsibility greater, probably, than he realizes. There is not a competent authority in the Dominion, outside of political spheres of influence, who believes that the province of British Columbia will not eventually be called upon to assume the full liability it has undertaken. The call will not come for several years—certainly not during the term of the legislature elected Thursday. That depends upon the rate at which construction is carried on, and Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann are never in a great hurry about implementing their undertakings. During the term of construction the interest on moneys expended will all be charged up against capital account. The bondholders will collect their dues, but they will not be paid from funds earned in the transportation of passengers or goods. The Pacific Coast extension of the Canadian Northern is not to be completed, according to the agreement which is to be amplified into a contract, for four years from the date of the contract's execution. That length of time, and more, must therefore elapse before we shall know with anything approaching to certainty what the financial result, as far as the province is concerned, of the railway policy is going to be.

In the meantime we ask our readers, Conservatives as well as Liberals, not to forget that Victoria's chief representative, who is the head of the government, has given his most solemn assurance that the Canadian Northern Railway is to be continued from Vancouver to English Bluff, or to a point in the neighborhood thereof, thence by a first-class passenger, mail, express and freight ferry to some point on Vancouver Island, and on to Victoria. It is quite true that the opposition had a railway policy also; but, whatever the merits of that policy, it did not possess the appealing attraction of being presented by a party in power, and therefore in a position to carry it out. It was indefinite, also, in the respect that there was no actual transportation company behind it. The electors, naturally we think, accepted the "concrete proposition."

The difficulties encountered by the Liberals in the campaign can all be overcome. They should be faced immediately. The strength of Liberalism in British Columbia is not truly represented by the number of members elected yesterday to sit in the House. The contests in Victoria and Vancouver, and in most of the ridings outside of the large centres, were close considering the conditions under which the campaign was waged, which conditions we shall probably have occasion to allude to more specifically later on. The fortunes of the party have reached the lowest ebb. They can be built upon a strong and sure foundation if organization be undertaken in a systematic and business-like manner. "Getting in" is but a secondary consideration in the mind of the public man or of the party whose chief concern is the true interests of the country. The remnant of the opposition in the legislature will unquestionably do its best to keep the overwhelming government forces in check should they be inclined to run into a riot of extravagance, recklessness and dissipation; but it is absolutely necessary that that opposition should be augmented with as little delay as possible. Therein lies the duty of the Liberal party.

THE OPPOSITION LEADER.

The Times could hardly have the audacity to see its opinion above the judgment of such a large majority of the electors of British Columbia and maintain that the result of the elec-

tions held Thursday is to be deplored. We did our best for what we believed to be the better cause. Our judgment has been set aside, and we abide the consequences with resignation, aye, with cheerfulness. But one result of the contest, we think, will be sincerely regretted by all men, Conservative or Liberal, whose partisanship does not blind them to an acknowledged principle inherent in our system of constitutional government, that a strong opposition is as necessary to good government as a strong administration.

The opposition is not only shattered, but its leader is among the fallen. We say it is a most unfortunate thing for the province that John Oliver, upon whose home constituency a concentrated fire was maintained while he was absent upon his specially important and arduous duties as leader, should have been defeated. It cannot be counted to the credit of the farmers of the Delta that they did not stand, loyal and true, behind one whose public career has reflected such unusual honor upon them and such acknowledged benefits to the province at large.

We know what the natural inclination of Mr. Oliver must be under such discouraging circumstances. There has never been anything of material value for him in political life. Indeed there is no question that he has suffered in pocket as a consequence of the active, self-sacrificing part he has taken in public affairs. He will feel like washing his hands of the whole political business and giving his time and attention entirely to his own private business. No one could blame Mr. Oliver if he were to adopt such a course; but we feel that such a resolution would be received with sincere regret throughout the province. It would be little short of a calamity if British Columbia were to be permanently deprived of his services. We hope a way may be found of securing Mr. Oliver's return to the Legislature and to the active leadership of his party. The Premier has been elected for two constituencies, having defeated one of the Liberal leaders in Yale. The loss of Stuart Henderson will of course be severely felt by the opposition also. But we know Mr. Henderson will consent to stand aside temporarily to do the province a service. If Mr. Oliver will agree to stand, he ought to be permitted to go in for Yale by acclamation. There would be nothing derogatory to the pride of the Liberal leader in accepting such an arrangement. There is the precedent set in the case of Carleton, Ontario, to justify such a course of action. When Mr. Borden was defeated in Halifax in the Dominion elections of 1904, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, feeling that the loss of his services as opposition leader would not be in the interests of the country, exercised his great influence and prevented any opposition being raised to the election of Mr. Borden in Carleton.

A strong effort should be made to induce Mr. Oliver to continue in public life.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SUGGESTION

We have a most profound esteem, indeed a deep affection, for the American people. We recognize that the nation is the greatest that is or ever has been on the face of the earth. We realize that bounds cannot be set to the future possibilities of that nation from a material, a political, and from a moral point of view. Its influence upon contemporary nations in the future is bound to be beyond present human conception. But, with all that, we are not inclined to take the position that the United States shall be permitted to dominate the public life of Canada to the extent of dictating our relations, political or commercial, with sister nations, and particularly with the Mother of Nations.

Yet that is the position the Conservative party of Canada, which never loses an opportunity of impugning the loyalty of the Liberal party, has assumed on the question of the ratification of the commercial treaty recently negotiated with France. The suggestion of Mr. G. E. Foster and other Tory leaders that before passing the treaty a commission should be sent to Washington for the purpose of finding out whether the government of the United States would consider that treaty as a discrimination against Americans has excited not only wonder, but passion, throughout the length and breadth of Canada. It is virtually an admission that the United States should be accepted as the permanent dictator of the fiscal policy of Canada.

As a sample of Eastern newspaper comment upon the extraordinary position of the Conservative party, we quote the following very emphatic article from the Hamilton Times: "In the House of Commons yesterday leading members of the Opposition openly committed their party to the advocacy of the theory that Canadian trade policy should be governed from Washington. This extraordinary theory was laid down by Mr. Monk, and found support from Hon. Mr. Foster and Mr. Lennox. Even Mr. Borden, while verbally disclaiming a willingness to allow the United States to dictate Canada's commercial policy, seemed willing to get down on his knees along with his leading lieutenants. "The exhibition of un-Canadianism was made when the Minister of Finance introduced a resolution approving of the Franco-Canadian treaty,

the approval of which is soon to be asked of Parliament. Assurance of ample opportunity for discussion of the bill was given; but that did not meet Mr. Monk's objections. Mr. Monk professed to fear the effect of the Payne tariff upon our trade relations with the United States, and he begged the Government not to deal with the treaty until it had ascertained what interpretation United States authorities would place upon it. In other words, Canada should not make an advantageous commercial arrangement with another country without first obtaining the permission of the United States! This humiliating course was also advocated by Mr. Foster.

"Hon. Mr. Fielding, speaking for the Government, utterly dissented from this view. The treaty was a matter for the Canadian and French people, and for them alone, and Canada must insist upon its right to regulate its own commercial affairs. It would be most unseemly for the Canadian Government to approach the United States soliciting their permission in such a matter. Moreover, we have no reason to suppose that the United States authorities would regard the treaty as discriminating against that country; and, in any event, it is to be doubted whether any information on the subject could be ascertained. Sir Wilfrid Laurier very pertinently said that if this treaty is to be regarded as discrimination, so might the treaty now in existence. Mr. W. F. Maclean took strong ground against the Opposition's contention, and argued for Canadian action on Canadian business from purely Canadian reasons.

"We are not inclined to think that the Opposition's course in this matter will meet with the support of the country. Our people are not likely to accept the theory that in commercial matters Canada is to play the part of a tail wagged by the United States dog."

MR. OLIVER'S LETTER.

Mr. Oliver has issued the following letter to his supporters: Ladner, B. C., Nov. 28, 1909. Gentlemen,—Kindly oblige me by conveying through the columns of your paper my hearty thanks to all those who accorded me their support in the elections just past.

Although defeated I am able at least to look back with pleasure upon the generous and whole-hearted manner in which my supporters put their time and influence at my service. I also desire to thank all those throughout the province who fought for the candidates on what has proved to be the losing side. Everywhere those who had faith in the policies of the Liberal party have made a clean, hard fight; that the result is, as it is, is in no way attributable to any lack of vigor or enthusiasm on their part.

Again conveying my heartfelt thanks to all those who worked and voted for myself or for the policies of the party which honored me by choosing me as its leader, I am,

Yours truly,

JOHN OLIVER.

The leader of the Opposition has been confined to his home by an attack of grippe contracted during the campaign. It is stated, however, that there is no foundation for a report in a Mainland paper that Mr. Oliver has signified his intention of retiring from political life. This will be welcome news not only to the members of his own party, but to a great number of men who oppose him in politics, but who do not undervalue his great services to the province.

A BOARD OF CONTROL.

A petition is being circulated for signatures, looking to such steps as will substitute for our present aldermanic system a Board of Control. The change sought by the gentlemen who are responsible for the petition is to place the administrative machinery of the city in the hands of the Mayor and two Controllers, elected by the people, who will give most of their time to the business of the city. As we understand the wording of the petition it is intended by this means to relieve the aldermen of much of the work now imposed upon them, and to make their office honorary. We do not recall that the petition so states, but as we understand it is also proposed to elect these Controllers for a longer term than one year.

No one recognizes the weakness of the present system more than the Times. None are more anxious for improvement. We think it can be improved, but we sincerely hope that when the citizens decide on a change there will be a free discussion of the whole situation, and a careful scrutiny of the trend of reform in municipal matters over the whole continent before the electors ask for any other system.

This is a large subject and we propose to return to it. It is just as well, however, to recognize that while the aldermanic system has its weaknesses it has no monopoly of them. There are obvious disadvantages in electing a new governing body every year. But there are also disadvantages in giving any number of men wide powers for more than one year, and it is most import-

ant that if both the tenure of office and the powers of the officials are to be extended, that some safeguard be provided whereby the electorate may have a check on City Hall activities. It seems to us that any extension of either the term of office, or of the powers of the officials, must be accompanied by safeguards of the kind we mention.

Nor is it quite clear that a Board of Control, as such bodies are at present constituted, would be as efficient as a Board of elected Commissioners, with the safeguards which we have mentioned.

We are not opposing the Board of Control idea, because we believe that with reasonable limitations it would be an improvement on the aldermanic system. But so far as we have investigated the matter, the Commissioner idea seems preferable. And in any event we hope there will be a thorough ventilation of the whole subject of municipal government before the changes mentioned are sought.

What Other People Think

AN OPEN LETTER.

Honest John Oliver, Leader and Statesman.

Friend John: Your hand, old man. You have fought a good fight and have been badly beaten. The country from north to south, from east to west, has declared against you, and in favor of Richard McBride. Unheard of majorities have been piled up, and there is scarcely a Liberal left to tell the tale. Jardine and Brewster will have the whole field of debate open to them. Your opponents and theirs are making merry over their victory.

Down and out, you say. Neter, man, never. The country needs you more than ever it did. Shall the watchdog be silenced because the enemies of his master's goods are more numerous than before? Shall the sentry be dismissed because a great battle has been fought and lost? Think you that Kelen Island schemes, that Columbia and Western land grants, that Adolphe Caron deals are matters of history only?

Nonsense, man, you know better. The same men are at the helm. The same plotting brains are ready to slich the country's resources. We want you—the people want you to care for their interests. Let your party of course do it. It did. The word was passed around. Liberals are in favor of local option, the Conservatives oppose. Vote down John Oliver; never mind voting against local option with the government. So the most powerful commercial interests of the province stood in hostile array against every candidate of yours. From the standpoint of their selfish interests they were right, absolutely right.

Railway policy went out. Of course it did, man. Propose a railway to exploit the north pole via the Yukon and the people would bite at the bait. Do you remember how the British Pacific Railway scheme captured the city of Victoria? Do you recollect the stuffed ballots, the triumph of everything but reason and right? Of course you do. The only good thing about it was that it was never meant seriously, and when concrete proposals were made in the House, even the government balked. Don't worry, man, over this business. You will be in the legislature before the rails are laid at the western end. Defeat is never your enemy. Why, of course, if you know anybody who will endorse my notes for \$21,000,000, as the government proposes to do for Mackenzie & Mann, for a specious commercial undertaking, will allow you a very handsome discount on the transaction. A cool million will be freely offered to all comers, and no questions asked. How much in cold cash was the contract that Dan Mann took away in his pocket worth? A hundred thousand dollars? Nonsense, man, five times that amount. Of course you do not know the contributors to the election fund. Only a few are in the secrets of the Hall and you are not one of the few. You can guess, though, and guess fairly well.

Justice, righteousness, honesty, people's welfare, moral and social reform all lost? Nonsense, old fellow. A sore defeat is sometimes needed to quicken action, strengthen resolve, and plan greater campaigns. Your name is as welcome as ever among the ranks of Liberalism. Your counsels are needed in the future. You are wanted in every constituency of the province to guide and direct. Stay with the game for God's sake. There are many ready to take your job. None better have offered; no one more unselfish; no one truer has appeared on the horizon. Your work is not done; it has only begun. The next fight is already on. You must lead it. The province wants you. The people want you. Liberalism wants you. I believe also—I say it reverently—that Providence wants you. Your hand, John.

ONE OF THE "OUTS."

JOLLIFFE ACTIVE.

Cruiser Keeping American Vessels From Poaching in Canadian Waters.

Fishing schooner Manhattan brought word to Vancouver that the fisheries protection steamer William Jolliffe is very active in northern waters and is on the alert to prevent poaching by about steamer from the other side. The Kestral is rather slow, but the poachers find they are up against a different proposition with the William Jolliffe. She is a Liverpool ocean-going tug which was brought to this coast a year or so ago for salvage purposes, and she steams 15 knots. She can tow a ship at 10½ knots, and is now under charter to the department of marine. She is at present commanded by Capt. Ledwell, formerly chief officer on the Kestral, and she is throwing some bad scares into the Sound halibut steamer which are flirting with the three-mile limit.

Handsomely Tailored Costumes Regular Values, \$25 to \$35 WEDNESDAY \$16.75 In order to reduce our present heavy stock of \$25 and \$35 suits we have decided to place the entire lot on sale Wednesday at \$16.75. These represent the greatest collection of man tailored costumes offered this season. The materials they are made of is decidedly varied, including broadelotus, diagonals, worsteds and serges, in all the season's very latest shades. Some are lined with rich mercerized lining, beautifully trimmed with jet buttons, while others are strictly plain tailored, in all a lot to choose from to suit every lady. The values were \$25 to \$35. Christmas sale Wednesday \$16.75

Extraordinary Bargains, Silk Robes Reg. Values \$65 and \$75 for \$25 Just figure it out for yourself for a moment and you will readily realize the stupendousness of this offering. Of course there is not an extraordinary large assortment, but the five we mention here is well worthy a trip to the store, if it were only to familiarize yourself with the class of goods. One is in fine taffeta of a golden brown hue with heavy self color applique, another is in French grey, with heavy self color lace and applique, another in heavy braid design, while one is in cream messaline silk with handsome applique, and a beautiful black silk robe with fancy drawn work stripe and insertion. Regular prices were \$75. Christmas sale Wednesday \$25

Annual Christmas Sale of Beautiful Silks Wednesday Wednesday opens Christmas month with remarkable bargains in silks. This sale includes hundreds of yards of beautiful silk in exquisite shades and effects. In many cases the prices are less than half which you would usually pay for them. Most of these are in 7 and 8 yard lengths, so that quick action is necessary. Regular values from \$1.25 up to \$4.75. Christmas sale price Wednesday \$1.00

Christmas Sale of Dress Lengths Wednesday Wednesday we are placing on sale a fine line of dress goods at decisive savings indeed. These include a large variety of French manufacture. All this season's latest effects. DRESS PATTERNS, regular value \$17.50. Christmas Sale Wednesday, \$5.00 DRESS PATTERNS, 8 yards long of fine quality Bedford cord, with self color, sat-in stripe, colors of moss, plum, navy. Regular value \$17.50. Wednesday \$5.00 DRESS PATTERNS in fine fancy colored stripe effect, in shades of seal, brown, olive, plum, brown and wisteria. Regular \$17.50. Wednesday \$5.00

Handsome and Captivating Effects in Silk Dress Lengths Regular \$55 and \$75 for \$25 Any lady wishing to purchase a beautiful silk dress length for practically a third of its real value had better be down at the Big Store early on Wednesday morning, as we are placing a limited quantity on sale. They are all 44 inches wide, there being from 8 to 11 yards in each length. They are in pure white, pink and blue. Short, Dresden effect, fancy flowered designs, black and colored peacock. The regular values were \$55 and \$75. Wednesday \$25.00

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

JUDGES APPOINTED TO COURT OF APPEAL

The appointment of the judges to the Court of Appeal is in accordance with the act creating the court which was passed by the British Columbia Legislature in 1907, but was not brought into force until a few weeks ago. The new court will hear all appeals in future. According to the act the sittings are held alternately in Victoria and Vancouver; in Victoria in January and June, and in Vancouver in April and November. The first sitting will, it is expected, be in Victoria on Tuesday, January 4th. The Court of Appeal as now named will consist of Hon. J. A. Macdonald, chief justice of the Court of Appeal; Mr. Justice Irving, Mr. Justice Martin and Mr. Justice Gallihir. The Supreme Court of the province will consist of Chief Justice Hunter, Mr. Justice Morrison, Mr. Justice Clement, Mr. Justice Gregory and Mr. Justice Murphy. Under the statute Chief Justice Hunter retains the title of Chief Justice of British Columbia as long as he remains in office. On his vacating office, however, the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal becomes the Chief Justice of British Columbia and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court accordingly so styled. James Alexander Macdonald, LL.B., K. C., the new chief justice of the Appellate court, was born in 1858, in Huron County, Ont. He was educated at the public schools and the Collegiate Institute at Stratford, Ont., and at the Toronto University and Osgoode Hall, Toronto. He entered the law firm of Fullerton, Cook, Wallace & Macdonald, Toronto, in 1880, but removed to Rossland in 1890, where he took up the practice of his profession. He was first elected to the legislature at the general elections in 1903, and was subsequently elected leader of the Liberal party in this province. He was re-elected to the legislature of 1907, but a short time ago relinquished the leadership and retired from politics. William Alfred Gallihir is a native of Bruce County, Ont., where he was born in 1880. He practiced law for a considerable period at Nelson and was elected to the House of Commons at the general elections of 1900, and was re-elected at the general elections of 1906. J. B. Gregory is a native of Fredericton, New Brunswick, where he was born some forty-five years ago. He comes of a distinguished legal family, his father, Mr. Justice Gregory, now retired, having long been an ornament to the bench and bar of that province. Colonel Gregory came to Victoria some twenty years ago, and for a time was law partner with A. L. Beives, K. C., and on the latter retiring he became associated with Thornton Fell, the firm, known as Fell & Gregory, existing down to the present. Col. Gregory was for years prominent in militia matters in Victoria, commanding the Fifth Regiment for some years. Denis Murphy is a native of British Columbia, and secured his legal training in this city. He sat in the legislature for a number of terms, representing Yale, and in the Prior ministry, which held office from November 21st, 1902, to June 10th, 1903, he held the portfolio of provincial secretary for a brief period. Mr. Murphy has a reputation as a public speaker, and enjoys a large practice at Ashcroft, where he has resided for some years.

ALL-BEING IMPORT Irish Ra The Lon of Novem respecting ship serviv has alread patches: The gov grant \$135, structing t sary railw county of Bay, in th west coast struction d Blacksd I to the Wes to the Ea an unbrok The distan Bay—551 m without c Blacksd the journa half days, part of t ministers route to J Hong-kon therefore, With the gover the All-B sured. It a connection Oversea s ence, wect of an enger ser special pr receiving ments, an and estim The bill, parliament which the comm "Colloone ways an recogniz key to t nearest a Canada i this port with the the coun way syst the Con claimed s would at travelling venences pens; G would be which Ir est link, the gove bodies in support of the Irish committee the propo tioned. The res Canada, All-Bed for the Once the time-tab and New Leave p.m. Arrive m.; leave 2 p.m.; Arrive 8 p.m.; Arrive p.m.; lea Arrive m.; leave 6 p.m.; Arrive m.; leave 11 hours Portuga Paris, Portuga London, the rally officially Pichon the gov delegati in Paris King w told, we prepared of his until ne neverth has been ment. F