

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 31, 1913.

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THE RETURNING TIDE

The Borden government and its naval policy received well merited condemnation from the electors in the Ontario constituency of South Bruce yesterday. This constituency had elected a Conservative candidate in 1911 and also in 1908. It has now swung into the Liberal column; and following a great reduction in the Conservative majority in the by-elections in Chateaugay and East Middlesex, shows in the most convincing way the steadily rising strength of Liberalism, and a steadily growing tide of opposition to the Borden naval policy of tribute.

Naturally Sir Wilfrid Laurier is gratified with the result in South Bruce. At a time when Conservative papers were telling their readers that the Liberal party must get a new leader, and that the day of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was past, this Ontario constituency has emphatically declared its confidence in him, and its evident regret that it had been misled by the shameful policy pursued by the Conservative leaders in 1911.

The chief issue in the campaign which has just closed so disastrously for Mr. Borden was the naval issue. The Liberals stood for Canadian autonomy and a Canadian navy. The Conservatives stood for a policy of tribute and an immediate gift of \$85,000,000 to place three empty ships in English waters, to be manned and maintained at the expense of the already heavily-burdened British tax-payer. There was no Nationalist feeling in South Bruce as there was in Chateaugay to which artful appeals could be made. The Toronto Globe is right in saying that the contest may be regarded as a fair test of public opinion in Ontario, which supplies the bulk of Mr. Borden's parliamentary following. East Middlesex had previously reduced the Conservative majority by nearly three hundred votes, and even in Chateaugay the majority was also greatly reduced.

The people of South Bruce are satisfied that there is no emergency, and that if Canada has money to spend for naval purposes she should spend it in providing shipyards and adopt a policy under which the vessels of her navy would be built in Canada and manned and maintained by Canada.

Sir Richard McBride has had the temerity to defend his course in advocating the Borden naval policy of contribution at a meeting of the Canadian Club in Ottawa, where the audience included many Liberals. Sir Richard asserts that he has nothing to apologize for and nothing to deny. So much the worse for the reputation of Sir Richard McBride. He boasts in an interview just published that he is a good Canadian. This may be true, but he is a better partisan, and if he is a good Canadian, why does he not stick to the Canadian policy of a Canadian navy, which he once endorsed with as much vigor as did Mr. Foster or Mr. Borden? South Bruce is a sufficient answer to Sir Richard McBride, as well as to all those who have described Liberalism as a weakening force in Canada. Mr. Borden has had a rude awakening.

SOCIAL WELFARE SUBJECTS

The Times commends to the thoughtful consideration of its readers the report in this issue of addresses made by Rev. R. A. Armstrong, Judge Ritchie, Adjutant Cummings, Rev. M. F. McCutcheon, Archdeacon Raymond, Rev. Mr. Porter, Mr. W. S. Fisher and others; and also the resolutions adopted at last night's meeting of the Associated Charities. A condensed report cannot do justice to the speech of any of the gentlemen named, but they regard the social conditions in St. John at the present time as in crying need of reform, and at last night's meeting they spoke grave words of warning as well as of counsel.

The organization known as the Associated Charities, which held its annual meeting last evening, is one that has proved itself to be of great usefulness in this city. While it does not dispense charity, except in a very small way in the most urgent cases, where relief must be immediate, it not only prevents citizens who ask the advice of its secretary from being swindled by underserving persons, but it also does good service for deserving people who are in want, as the attention of the church or society to which the individual belongs, or might fairly look for relief, is promptly notified of the conditions.

No man or woman can sit on the board of the Associated Charities at its meetings during the year without becoming convinced of the fact that there is greater need for remedial measures than for charity. Because of this fact the organization at its annual meetings calls public attention in a very forcible way to some of the social needs of the city, and to measures which, if carried out, would tend to reduce the amount of destitution and delinquency. Last year the Associated Charities at its annual meeting discussed the need of a Children's Protection Act, and secured the co-operation of other influential organizations, with the result that the province now has a Child's Protection Act. Through some error or misunderstanding a Children's Aid Society cannot begin its work, however, until it has been incorporated by special act of the same legislature.

Last year also a prison farm was discussed, and the case for such a farm was presented, last evening, with greater force and emphasis; and it may be hoped, as in the case of the Child's Protection Act, that other organizations in the city will take similar action, and that a united request will go to the legislature at its coming session. Premier Fleming has said that he is personally interested in this matter, and he has given some study to the system so successfully carried out in Ontario. It should be possible with the premier's sympathy and support to get the legislature at its next session, either to adopt such a bill as was sent up last year by the Municipal Council of the city and county of St. John, or another one making it possible to establish such an institution or institutions, to which would be sent for their own good, and the good of the community, the great majority of the prisoners now sentenced to terms in the common jail.

Another subject of even more vital importance was that discussed by Adjutant Cummings of the Salvation Army, relating to neglect of the welfare of young girls, the immorality which is known to exist, and the lack of care of the children who are permitted to play about the streets and alleys without supervision until a late hour at night. So long as society is indifferent to what is going on under its very nose to cause the demoralization of its youth, there will be need of prisons and prison farms and reformatory institutions of various kinds.

The plea for a wider use of the school buildings for evening classes is one that should command the support of the citizens of St. John. The people own the school buildings, and they are in use but a few hours each day. They can be made of infinitely greater benefit, not merely for evening classes for educational purposes, but as social centres for physical culture and recreation, and as neighborhood clubs where men and women could meet to discuss questions affecting their daily life in the community. Of course it would only be possible in St. John to make a very small beginning at the present time, but such a beginning ought to be made, with the hearty approval of the board of school trustees. The city of Chicago in the last twenty years spent millions of dollars to provide social centres because the school board of that city refused to permit the use of the school buildings. In the state of Wisconsin today there is a law providing that whenever the people of a school district ask to have the school building opened as a social centre, it must be done by the school board and the necessary funds provided for lighting, heating and supervision. Throughout the United States the school buildings are being used more and more as social centres, and the wisdom of such a course has commended itself to Canadian cities, which are also beginning to realize the importance of utilizing to a much greater extent for the public good the costly plant represented by the public school buildings.

NOT SATISFACTORY

It is very evident that even if the Royal Line steamers come to St. John, of which there is as yet no definite assurance, the citizens will not be content with what a Halifax paper has aptly described as "a sop thrown to St. John." It will naturally be asked, if the Royal Liners can be accommodated at St. John, why not the Empresses? There will also be a natural desire to ask what sort of deal has been put through to bring the steamships of one line to St. John when Halifax had been their terminal port, and take away from St. John the mail steamships of two lines which had previously made their terminus at St. John, and which had announced the sailings of their big mail steamships direct to and from this port for the coming winter.

Questions of this sort are being asked right and left, and the resignation of a group of the most active members of the Borden Club shows that the dissatisfaction is by no means confined to Liberals. Certain Conservative leaders have been laboring very hard ever since the delegation returned from Ottawa to prevent a free and open expression of the feelings of the rank and file of the party, but this is too big a question to be treated from the partisan standpoint, and the feeling which is universal is nothing less than indignation. The Galtus agreement has not yet been vetoed by the government.

Last Ditch Fight

An old gentleman, now deceased, never seemed to be satisfied unless he had several cases pending in court. He left surviving a son who seems to have followed in his footsteps and has continued to keep up his father's record of proceedings in court.

Several of the attorneys were talking about his court troubles one day, when one of them told the following about the old gent:

The old gent had just won a case in the justice court, when the loser, in a very combative frame of mind, exclaimed: "I'll law you to the circuit court."

Old Gent—"I'll be thar."

Loser—"And I'll law you to the Supreme Court!"

"I'll be thar."

"I'll law you to 'ell!"

"My attorney'll be thar."

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Charles Hazlett Cahan, one of Montreal's prominent lawyers and company promoters, was born in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, on Oct. 31, 1861. He practised for some years in Halifax and was for a time leader of the Conservative opposition in the legislature.

Charles W. Spencer, veteran Canadian railway man, who has held many important positions on the C. P. R. and Canadian Northern systems, was born at Kemptonville, Ont., on Oct. 31, 1857.

Major A. C. Joly de Lotbiniere, son of the late Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere and an officer in the imperial army, was born in Quebec on Oct. 31, 1862. He is stationed in India where he has rendered much important service, particularly in the construction of hydro-electric systems.

LIGHTER VEIN

"Well, did he pay you?" asked the wife of a dentist who had been to collect a bill for a full set of false teeth that he had made for a man almost a year before.

"Pay me?" growled the dentist. "Not only did he refuse to pay me, but he actually had the effrontery to gnash at me—with my teeth."

"You knew old Dempster, who was said to be so well off? As you know, he died the other day, and now the story goes that his one and only possession was an old grandfather's clock."

"Ah, well, there's one good thing about that. The trustees won't have much difficulty in winding up his estate."

"Does your son intend to take a full course in college?"

"It looks that way. His liquor bill for the first month was over thirty dollars."

No Let-up

Knicker—"Life is hard."

Bocker—"Yes, by the time your mother stops forbidding you to eat jam, the doctor begins."

Well Posted

"You seem to be very intimate with the Digbys. I didn't know you had met them."

"I haven't met them. I patronize their dressmaker."

Believing Appearance

Editor—"Did you say you evolved this joke yourself?"

Artist—"I did sir."

Editor—"H'm and yet you don't look more than thirty years of age."

Usually

"What is frenzied finance?"

"Financing your friends."

GRANULATION OF THE EYELIDS

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Wherever there is itching of the skin or a sore that refuses to heal, you can use Dr. Chase's Ointment with full assurance that it will prove entirely satisfactory. 60 cents a box, all dealers, of Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

Some Days Ago

In the city of Montreal, a number of firms were fined for selling watches that were not up to their advertisements.

These were so called 17 and 21 jewel movements.

The jewels were little bits of glass cemented in place.

The Dealers Were Fined.

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Grand Clearance Sale of Organs

One very fine D. W. Kern Organ, five octave with mirror, good as new, original price \$110.00, now \$65.00; terms, \$5.00 down and \$4.00 per month.

One very fine Thomas' Piano Case Organ, powerful and beautiful tone, original price \$155.00, now selling for \$65.00; terms, \$6.00 down and \$4.00 per month.

One Pelobel & Co. Organ, American make, original price \$125.00, now \$48.00; terms, \$5.00 down and \$3.00 per month.

One W. Doherty & Co. Organ with plate glass mirror, original price \$110.00, now \$40.00; terms, \$5.00 down and \$3.00 per month.

One New England Organ, beautiful tone, original price \$115.00, now \$24.00; terms, \$4.00 down and \$2.00 per month.

One Wilcox & White Organ with mirror, very nice tone and good case, original price \$110.00, now \$78.00; terms, \$5.00 down and \$2.00 per month.

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