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The News.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 4, 1910

A BIGGER AND BETTER ST. JOHN

The Canadian Club did some good work for the bigger and better St. John last evening. Its "St. John Night" was a thorough success. The attendance was remarkable both in numbers and quality, and the speeches in the main were in hearty accord with the spirit of active optimism that possessed the meeting. Seldom has the gospel of go-ahead been preached in this city with more vigor, and never with more acceptance.

The President of the Board of Trade struck the note for the meeting in his moderate convincing summary of the excellent progress already made, his clear outline of the progress present, his solidly optimistic expectations for the near future, and his practical, commonsensible suggestions of policy to meet present and future needs. In situation and climate, in its river and harbor, in its accessibility to the raw materials of varied industry, St. John has advantages unexcelled for commercial and industrial expansion. All it needs for development is more civic pride, more civic co-operation, and more advertising. Get together, improve the city and advertise the city, and all to which we are entitled in the way of development and prosperity will come, and that quickly. That was the pith of Mr. Estabrooks' admirable speech, from which none who heard could fail to take pride and profit.

Mr. Charles Macdonald, who followed, in a most entertaining speech, took a different tack, rather discounting the value of too much optimism, on the ground that it tended at times to comfortable day dreaming rather than to the hard and steady work upon which all substantial progress must be based. Do well the work that lies next to your hand, was his best advice to the men of St. John. That and advertising, particularly for the purpose of attracting more agricultural population, were Mr. Macdonald's prescription for a better St. John.

Mr. W. S. Fisher dealt interestingly and informingly with the transportation situation, demonstrating in forcible fashion St. John's advantages in this regard, and founding thereon a strong structure of faith in the future of this port and the Maritime Provinces in general. Alderman Frink, in conclusion, discussed outstanding problems of civic government with the authority of expert information, paying particular attention to the city's financial condition and to the industrial handicap of the increasing tax rate. The remedy he proposes is the nationalization of the harbor and the devotion of the proceeds to the reduction of the civic debt and consequently of the heavy burden of interest charges. His remarks in this connection and particularly his implied criticism of the federal government in delaying this desired consummation of the city's harbor development efforts were most sympathetically and heartily received.

Considering the large extent of the ground covered, the sound and reasonable and suggestive optimism of the speakers, and the cordially responsive spirit of the large and unusually representative audience, last night's meeting must be set down as one that accomplished the purpose of its promoters in a remarkable degree. Those who attended came away with more knowledge and more faith, and, we believe, with more determination to "talk St. John and see their business grow" than any similar number of citizens ever possessed in this city before.

MONTREAL'S EXAMPLE

Montreal has fought a good fight for better government, not only in its own municipal affairs, but in the affairs of every city and province in Canada, and even in the affairs of the Dominion itself. After long tribulation it has purged itself of a monstrous evil of graft and has established in the place of a loosely constructed system of civic government administered by self-seeking politicians, a business-like organization of efficient and honest business men. The signal victory of the citizens' slate in yesterday's election in the face of tremendous racial and political influences indicates that the heart of the people is right; that both French and English will stand alike for honest government once their interest is aroused.

Montreal's civic conditions were exceptional only in degree. Though probably no municipality nor province in this country has had an administration so corrupt as that which Montreal has at last shaken off, nearly all have to some extent the elements that foster corruption—a loose system of government by elected representatives with no particular qualifications who owe a part of their influence to the exercise of more or less petty patronage. We have them here in St. John. And though we have as yet no reason to suspect anything short of thorough integrity in our civic rulers, we can with profit learn a lesson from Montreal and take steps to insure against bad administration by establishing an executive centre of government in the form of a Board of Control of some sort composed of men qualified to preside over the various departments and administer the civic finances and civic legislation in organized business like fashion, with no hampering element of favor and patronage.

A GREAT YEAR FOR CANADA

That 1909 was by far Canada's biggest building year, while 1910 promises still greater activity and development, is "Construction's" summary of the Canadian commercial condition as reflected by the reports of construction progress throughout the country. Official returns as submitted to "Construction" from thirty cities located in every province and section of the Dominion, records a grand total for permits issued, amounting to $68,606,821 for the past twelve months, as against $42,577,439 for the entire year of 1908, thus registering an average gain for the year of approximately 60 per cent., or a proportionate increase in the volume of work undertaken nearly two-thirds again as great as that carried out in the preceding twelve months. This average can be accepted as being representative of the general strides made throughout the country, as many cities whose exact figures are still unknown and hence not tabulated prospered to an equal or greater degree in proportion to their population, than some of the places which are included in the list.

Halifax and Edmonton were the only two cities which failed to surpass their figures for the previous year, the loss being 24 per cent. and 16 per cent. in order named. Aside from these places, the year was one of complete ascendancy on every hand, and a triumphal march from coast to coast. The biggest increase noted is in the case of Saskatoon, which recorded an overwhelming gain of 767 per cent.; Fernie takes second honors with an advance of 449 per cent., and Lethbridge lands in the third position by overreaching the previous year's figures to the extent of 246 per cent. In Manitoba, Winnipeg looms up with an increase of 67 per cent., Brandon a gain of 19, and Portage la Prairie with one of 62 per cent., while in Saskatchewan Regina and Moose Jaw's respective advances of 56 and 157 per cent., together with Saskatoon's figures previously mentioned, indicate that the onward movement was widespread throughout that province. Winnipeg's amount of $9,226,325, it may be mentioned, is the second largest total registered in the Dominion, and represents a jump of nearly four millions over her amount of the preceding year.

Toronto, however, easily leads the van. Its total of $18,200,000 shows the greatest volume of work undertaken in any city in the Dominion—greater than Montreal and Winnipeg combined. It is a record of which Canada can be justly proud, as there is possibly no city of like size in the world that can boast of such pronounced growth. Ottawa also forged ahead in a most striking manner, her total for permits issued being $4,527,590, as against $1,794,075, a gain of 152 per cent., while other advances which give evidence to the gigantic strides which are being made are; Kingston, 165 per cent.; Berlin, 129; Fort William, 90; London, 83; Peterbboro, 43; Windsor, 42; Niagara Falls, 33; and Hamilton, 16 per cent.

In the east, Montreal recorded an increase of 53 per cent., and Sydney a gain of 139 per cent. The activity shown in these two places is more or less representative of the progress made in most of the Eastern towns and cities. Apart from Halifax, few, if any, places met with reversals.

And 1910 promises to eat all these records. Toronto predicts a total of $23,000,000; Winnipeg expects to build to the extent of $14,000,000; Montreal reports the outlook as "roseate"; and Vancouver says that she is just beginning to grow. In St. John the outlook is better than for years. This is only an idea of the optimism which pervades the entire country. Prospects for both large and small work were never better, and architects and builders can look forward to an extremely busy season. To sum up the situation in a word, says "Construction," 1909 has been a great year, but 1910 will, unless all signs fail, be a greater one in every respect.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

A feature of the Liberal programme in the British elections, which has been obscured to overseas view by the larger issues, but which has played a large part in the campaign, is the plan for insurance against unemployment, elaborated and put forward by Mr. Winston Churchill. This is the first project of the kind ever put forward on a large scale anywhere. In Germany working men are insured compulsorily against sickness, invalidity and old age, but though unemployment insurance has been considered, it has not yet been adopted except in a small way by some German and Swiss municipalities. Consequently the British government has had to break entirely new ground and the methods they propose to adopt will be watched in their operation with great interest by all who are concerned in the improvement of social conditions.

Briefly the plan involves compulsory contributions from both workmen and employers, supplemented by state contributions. It applies in the beginning to certain specified trades most liable to fluctuation in employment conditions and the insurance is limited in such a way as to prevent as far as possible, deliberate loafing.

It is proposted that the workmen, the employer and the state shall each contribute about 2½d. a week for each man. In practice the workmen's share will be deducted from his wages. The recently established labor exchanges and the insurance plan will work very closely together. As soon as a worker loses his employment he must report himself at the exchange, which immediately tries to find him another job. For a week he receives nothing. It is assumed that he will have saved enough to tide him over for a little while, and in the interval every effort will be made to find him work by the labor exchange in order to save the fund.

When the exchange hears of work likely to suit him the man must either take it or explain to a committee, composed of masters and men, why it does not suit him. If they brush his objection aside he is bound to take it or else lose his out-of-work allowance. Suppose, on the other hand, neither the exchange nor the man himself can find work, then he begins after seven days to receive something like eight shillings a week, or more if the benefits are slightly less. If it does go on for twenty weeks and he is still "out" he drops out of the scheme, and when he next gets employment must begin all over again. But twenty weeks would cover the whole unemployment of nine men of ten in the insured trades.

The second time he will have to subscribe longer before he becomes eligible for benefit. The original period of probation is likely to be fixed at about eight months. The next period (for those who have dropped out) will be more extended ,and the third more lengthy still. This will have the effect of freeing the fund from those who are habitually unemployed for long spells. The scheme is meant for regular, competent workers. The frequently out-of-work must seek relief from the distress committees or the poor law or any improved arrangements of a relieving character which may be made as the result of the Poor Law Commission. They will be outside the scope of the labor exchanges and insurance system, which is in no sense charitable. It is a purely economic and mathematical business arrangement for preventing waste.

Compared with the good it will do the expenditure required of the Treasury is very small—not more than £1,500,000 a year. This will cover the state additions to premiums and also the expenses of management. The whole scheme, indeed, works out more cheaply than was imagined to be possible. It will cost the worker only the price of a glass or two of beer each week. It will cost a big employer—say one who pays wages to 500 men—only about $250 a year, which in a business of that magnitude is a very small item. If in return for these small sacrifices the workers in the trades mentioned can be to a large extent freed from the haunting dread which gnaws perpetually at their lives the result in individual happiness and national wel-

ST. JOHN'S WATER SUPPLY

The figures quoted elsewhere, showing the water pressure in the vicinity of Friday's fire, give emphatic answer to the allegations of insufficient water supply and should render impossible the reported effort of the organized fire insurance men to increase their rates on the basis of those allegations.

The present water supply of St. John is not only far better than at any previous time in the city's history but is probably excelled in quantity and pressure by no city of similar population and approximate situation in America. Every condition asked by the fire underwriters prior to the Loch Lomond extension has been amply fulfilled. Daily about nine million gallons of water are delivered at Marsh Bridge, enough to supply a city of 100,000 population, and the average pressure is more than sufficient to throw streams, unaided by engines, over the highest buildings in the city. A little over a year ago when a test was made a pressure of 72 pounds per square inch at the hydrant at Market Square was found sufficient to force streams of water over the highest buildings in that vicinity. Saturday afternoon exhaustive tests of the pressure in the vicinity of the Erin street fire showed a pressure averaging over 80 pounds and ranging from 95 to 67—the lower figures being due to the fact that a few hydrants in that locality are still connected with the old 10 inch main that has been in use for 72 years. The work of establishing connection with the new 15 inch main was compulsorily discontinued when the winter set in and will be completed in the spring. But even at the lowest pressure reported the gravity supply on Friday was more than sufficient to cope with the fire, and if there was any lack of force in the streams it was clearly due to the inadequacy of the fire engines, which, as a matter of fact, should not have been used.

It will be remembered that under Engineer Hunter's administration regulating valves were installed to control the force of the water in certain districts, nominally for the preservation of the mains. When Engineer Murdoch took charge last summer, after a series of tests he opened all these valves and gave thte city the full benefit of the whole Loch Lomond pressure. No destruction to the mains were reported and the figures published elsewhere show that as the result of the change the pressure at the hydrants in the vicinity of Friday's fire average today about 20 pounds greater than six months ago.

In brief, St. John is today better armed against fire, as against all other dangers incident to an inadequate or impure water supply, than it ever was. All that was to be accomplished by the Loch Lomond extension has been accomplished and there is absolutely no foundation for any increase in fire insurance rates. Rather there is ground for an insistent demand for a substantial reduction.

A GOOD YEAR

The Labour Gazette, summing up the reports of its agents on industrial and labor conditions throughout Canada during the holiday season and at the opening of the year states that the holiday trade, which is generally regarded as a fair indication of economic and industrial conditions for the year, largely exceeded in volume that of the preceding year and in many sections was reported heavier than in any previous season.

This is due in part, of course, to generally favorable weather conditions, but chiefly to the increased agricultural yields of the past season, the value of which, according to the latest estimate, will exceed that of the previous year by over $100,000,000. Especially noteworthy in connection with the Christmas trade were the superior quality of the goods demanded and the abundance of ready money.

General industry, as well as the trade of the country, has received from the same cause a pronounced stimulus, and for some months past a steadily increasing degree of activity has been reported in the lumbering, mining, manufacturing and transportation branches. In the lumbering industry, the general demand has increased, prices have been upward, and the outlook is for a large cut during the coming winter. In the mining industry, the collieries have steadily increased their outputs, and the metalliferous mines are in a more favourable position than for some time past. The manufacturing industry was still more active than in November; staffs were being increased in many localities and a scarcity of skilled hands was reported in certain branches. There has been a resumption of the expansion in plants and equipment which was so pronounced a feature in this industry during 1906 and 1907. Railways have been exceptionally busy, the larger companies reporting a marked increase in earnings and in the number of hands employed. The outlook for the industrial season, the Labour Gazette reports, is on all sides regarded as most favorable in view of the large amount of railway construction and other building projected, the increasing growth of immigration, and the marked industrial and trade buoyancy resulting from the favourable crop returns of 1909.

NEW FASHIONS

The man who pays his bills does not require any array of statistics to inform him that there has been a very appreciable increase in the cost of living. He knows from painful experience that it is becoming increasingly difficult to make both ends meet.

But the popular discussion serves one very good purpose. Under normal conditions the tendency has been to conceal with a good deal of care any difficulty that might exist in making the family income cover the family expenditure. Prices were discussed in an academic fashion. The cost of living was a matter demanding impersonal treatment. But as every one knows, it has never been considered just the correct thing to admit any necessary economies. People have publicly pitied the poor when there has been a jump in prices, but they have never ventured to publish their own distress.

But in these days the fashions are changing. Everybody is now more than willing to confess the necessity of the practice of rigid economy. People who do not complain at the high price of dry goods and groceries are distinctly out of touch with popular conversation. We are all eager to admit that we are hard-pressed. Everybody now knows that nine-tenths of us are struggling desperately to make both ends meet.

The cat is out of the bag. We understand one another a good deal better. We now know that we all play at the same game. Moreover we will be able to pity the few people who can never really have any cause for complaint.

There is, moreover, promise that this crisis in prices will produce yet another civilizing effect. As everybody knows, the impelling motive of every ambitious family has been to live a little bit better than the other families of the neighborhood. We have cheerfully concealed the annual deficit and ostentatiously displayed the daily luxuries. In fact it has been quite fashionable to glory in extravagance.

But now that we have reached the limit in that competition there is promise of a fresh race. Hundreds of New Yorkers now calmly announce that they cannot afford to eat meat and with zest seek to live well without that extravagance. May we not believe that this is but the beginning of a new day when it will be considered fashionable to be frugal and distinctly vulgar to be extravagant.

For human nature is quite capable of just such a right-about-face. One day may find two women tactfully boasting of their extravagance, and the next day with equal pride displaying their bargains. At bottom it is the same quality of human nature that they exercise. We wish to excell, to be well thought of, to appear to advantage. We boast of a bargain, if bargain hunting is fashionable, and will reflect upon our superior shrewdness. We boast of extravagance if that is the proper cult. And the housewife of tomorrow may boast of her frugality for the very same reason that her sister of yesterday frankly displayed her reckless extravagance.

LABOR EXCHANGES

Last night's cables announce the inauguration today of the British government's new system of national bureaus as mediums of exchange between men seeking work and employers seeking men. The system as prepared is broad in its scope and covers the whole United Kingdom. In each exchange, and there will be 250 of them, there will be filed the names, qualifications, etc., of men in that vicinity desiring employment. The country is to be split up into ten divisions, and attached to the principal exchange in each division will be a divisional clearing-house, and these in turn will be in direct communication with the central clearing house in London. The whole system will be linked up by telephone.

And the result? Suppose a builder in Sheffield requires 300 men, skilled and unskilled, and can only find 100 at hand. He communicates his requirements to the nearest exchange, the telephone is utilized to get into communication with the divisional clearing house, which in turn communicates with the various exchanges within its jurisdiction, and the demand is speedily supplied.

If there is a great demand for labor in one division, and a surplus in another, the clearing house in the first will communicate with the central clearing house in London, and will learn from there of the surplus in the second.

In the event of a man being offered work in a district at a distance, and not having the wherewithal to pay his railway fare, he will be given a voucher which will pass him to his destination. But this, of course, will be a loan, and the precautions necessary to secure repayment will be taken.

On the other hand, if a man is offered suitable work at a distance from his home, he will be under no obligation to accept it, and it will not be prejudicial to him to refuse work on the ground that a trade dispute exists, or that the wages offered are lower than those current in the district where the work is offered.

Every case will be treated on its merits, and no man or woman will be expected to accept work other than that applied for. The function of the Labor Exchange is to supply information as to employers requiring workers and workers seeking employment, of whatever nature.

EAST AND WEST

Western Conservative papers evince notable discontent at the decision of the party machine to hold the Dominion convention next June in Ottawa. Even in Ontario some surprise is expressed, so staunch a paper as the Hamilton Spectator declaring its belief that the decision was a mistake and that "the West is the place where the Conservative party needs most to get in touch."

As a matter of fact—and the Conservative press knows it, though naturally, mum's the word—the choosing of Ottawa as the convention city indicates the victory of the old guard in the preliminary skirmish with the younger and more radical element who want a change. West of Ontario Mr. Borden is not particularly popular as a leader. His excellent qualities are universally admitted, but many in the ranks doubt his capacity as a fighting man. Men like Roblin and Hanltain and McBride come nearer the western ideal of political leadership. Hence the desire of the insurgents to hold the convention in Winnipeg, where the western forces and influences would naturally predominate. Hence also the equally strong desire of the regulars to gather the clans in the East. This decision, however, does not end the revolt. These western politicians are resourceful as well as ambitious and it is not nearly so far from Vancouver to Ottawa as it used to be.

A BIGGER AND BETTER ST. JOHN

We commend the slogan which our committee has selected as the first prize winner in The Sun's contest as a good motto for all who want to see and to help St. John go ahead. Paste it in your hat; print it over your desk; write it in your letters; talk it; think it! In terse and vigorous form it phrases the aim of all good citizens.

To make St. John bigger means to win for it more population, more industries, more homes, more wealth, more progress. To make it better means to solve the problem of comfortable, healthful housing; to improve sanitary conditions; to remove as far as possible the danger of contagious diseases, particularly consumption and typhoid; to promote temperance and to create and continue a wholesome and vigorous public spirit. A bigger and better St. John means a hustling city, busy with commerce and humming with industry; a good city to live in—prosperous, progressive, healthy, filled with a continually increasing population of contented people and governed honestly, prudently and energetically Surely this is worth working for.

And it can be accomplished. Both as a port and as an industrial and commercial centre St. John has great advantages which only need faith and capital and energy for their prosperous development. We cannot promise prosperity to all industries and all business. The personal element in the management of business affairs is even more potent for success or failure than the surroundings. Also there are some industries whose natural market is so far removed that the handicap of freight rates overcomes local manufacturing advantages. But for any business dealing in exports and imports and for industries demanding conveniently located raw materials such as wood, plaster, iron ore, lime stone, etc., or materials imported from other countries, St. John offers opportunities unsurpassed in Canada.

The realization of these rests largely with the people of St. John. We have depended too long and too much upon outside capital and government aid. It's time we learned to paddle our own canoe, and we must learn if we want to get there. And a good beginning is for every hopeful man in this city to subscribe himself at once and every day a worker for A Bigger and Better St. John.

CANADIAN BANKING

In connection with the proposed reform the United States currency system a number of financial experts have been engaged by the National Monetary Commission to investigate banking and currency conditions in other countries. The first of an important series of monographs based on these investigations was issued this week in the form of a History of Banking in Canada, by R. M. Breckenridge, a noted financial authority.

The banking system of Canada ,like that of other countries, has been the result of a process of evolution and experiment in the effort to establish a system that would meet local conditions and requirements. Mr. Breckenridge traces this development from the earliest efforts to introduce the practice of banking into the British North American provinces in the eighteenth century to the most recent banking legislation of 1908.

At the time of Confederation exclusive legislative authority over all matters pertaining to banking, currency, coinage ,and cognate subjects was, by the act creating the Dominion, conferred upon the parliament of Canada. The separate provinces have no jurisdiction over these subjects, and there is, therefore, only one legislative body in the Dominion authorized to deal with banking questions ,and there is only one type of commercial bank. The problems of banking there are not complicated as they are in the States, where alongside of 7,000 banks organized under national laws there are some 18,000 other institutions organized under the varying laws of the 46 States of the Union.

After the enactment of certain preliminary legislation the Dominion parliament passed the bank act of 1871, which, with subsequent revisions, now constitutes the fundamental law of all banks doing business in Canada. In a few cases special provisions were made for banks doing busines under royal charters and for a ... others where particular conditions made the general act inapplicable.

Mr. Breckenridge shows that the Canadian system is in many respects similar to the Scotch banking system; it is primarily and fundamentally a branch banking system. There are today, it appears, only 29 banks in Canada, and 19 of that number have their head offices in Toronto and Montreal, their branches, numbering more than 2,000, being distributed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, into the Yukon country, and even into foreign countries. Of the parent banks, however, there are not more than three with head offices west of Ontario.

The authorized capital of any bank organized since 1890 is required to be at least $500,000, of which at least $250,000 must be paid in cash before the bank is authorized to commence business. Each bank may issue its notes, payable to bearer on demand and intended for circulation as money, but the total amount of notes of any bank in circulation could not, prior to the amendment of 1908, exceed the unimpaired paid-up capital of the bank. By the amendment of 1908, which grew out of the emergency issues of Dominion (or government) notes during the American panic of 1907, a bank, in addition to its regular circulation, may, during the usual season of moving the crops—that is, from the 1st day of October in each year to the 31st day of January next ensuing—issue its notes to an amount not exceeding 15 per cent. of its combined paid-up capital and reserve. These additional notes are subject to a special tax at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum, fixed by the governor in council.

The payment of the notes in case of failure of the issuing bank is secured in several ways. The notes are a first lien upon the assets of the bank; each stockholder is liable for any deficiency in the assets to an amount equal to the par value of the shares held by him, in addition to any amount not paid up thereon, and there is a "bank circulation redemption fund," in charge of the Government, which is contributed by the banks. Each bank is required to keep to its credit in this fund 5 per cent. in cash upon the average amount of its notes in circulation from year to year. In case of suspension of payment, the notes of a bank draw interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from the day of suspension until the date named by notice when they will be redeemed. When the circulation fund is depleted from any cause, a call is made upon the banks to replenish it at a rate not exceeding 1 per cent. per annum of the bank's circulation.

In addition to these provisions for maintaining the soundness of the notes, there are several requirements of law for the purpose of insuring their current redemption at par in all parts of the Dominion. The notes must be redeemed at the parent or head office of the banks and at agencies at commercial centers in each Province which are fixed by law and at such other places as the treasury board of the Dominion may designate. The Canadian system differs from that of the United States in the absence of any requirement for the maintenance of a fixed reserve against liabilities of the banks, either notes or deposits, and in the absence of any system of governmental inspection of the banks. The policy has gradually grown up, however, of considering a reserve of 15 per cent. desirable against demand liabilities, and banks falling below this are likely to be admonished by the bankers' association.

The chartered banks are members of the Canadian Bankers' Association, founded in 1892, but which was given the status of a public corporation under the amendment of 1900, and was authorized to establish clearing houses for banks in any place in the Dominion and to make rules for their government, subject, however, to the approval of the Treasury Board. To it was also given supervisory control of the note issues of the banks in order to promote uniformity and to prevent fraudulent over issues, and the power to take charge of the affairs of a failed bank through a curator. By these and other powers it exercises a large measure of influence over the policies and practices of the banks in general.

A sub-committee of the National Monetary Commission personally visited Canada early last fall and had interviews with leading bankers in Toronto and Montreal, the substance of which will later be published by the commission, and, in addition, Dr. Joseph French Johnson, of New York University, was sent to Canada to prepare a technical report upon the methods and practices of the Canadian banks, which also will be published shortly.

OTTAWA'S VERDICT

A bye-election in Ottawa in ordinary circumstances has no political significance. That city, even more than the general run of Canadian cities, sticks to the sunny side of the political street and the election of a Liberal as a general thing means nothing more than that a Liberal government is in power at the time.

But the national importance of the issue upon which the recent election was directly contested by both parties, together with the typical nature of the constituency, lends considerable significance to the result. Admittedly the odds were in favor of the Liberal candidate, though the natural advantage of government influence over the large civil service vote was largely reduced in this instance by dissension in the Liberal ranks, forcing the withdrawal of the candidate first chosen and the substitution of a new and practically unknown man. But the odds in Canada are always in favor of the government. In order to triumph over the general opportunism of the electorate the opposition must be able either to convict the government of some tremendous misdemeanour or must be in the right—or on the popular side—in some large question of vital public interest. And the voting in Ottawa on Monday seems to indicate that in the naval question the Conservative party has not got an issue upon which they can appeal successfully to the Dominion at large.

Probably no constituency in Canada is in a better position than Ottawa to give a test verdict on such a matter as this. The city sits on the border line between Quebec and Ontario. Its electorate is pretty evenly divided between French and English. Its English population is militantly British and its French element typical of Quebec. To this constituency the Liberal candidate appealed directly for support on the government's policy for the creation of a Canadian navy, built from comparatively small beginnings primarily for coast and commerce defence with the secondary idea of co-operation with the British navy in time of Imperial danger. The Conservative candidate appealed with equal directness, and to the exclusion of all other issues, upon the alternative Conservative policy involving the principle of immediate contribution of ships or money to the British Admiralty, to be administered by that body independently of Canadian control or interference. And the verdict has been strongly in favour of the government's plan. The French wards polled a heavy Liberal majority and in the English districts this unknown candidate running on the naval question did even better than Sir Wilfrid himself in the general election a little over a year ago. Another feature worthy of note was that the total vote was considerably less than that polled in the general election.

If the Conservative leaders are well advised they will accept this hint to abandon their effort to make a general political issue of this question of grave Imperial importance. The Ottawa result indicates not only that the question is one upon which the public are not going to become greatly excited, but also that, though the Liberal policy is not calculated to arouse any particular enthusiasm, it probably meets the varied views of the general electorate better than any alternative yet proposed.

The great majority of Canadians are agreed that duty calls Canada to do an effective something in the way of Imperial naval defence, but are reluctant to take any step backward in their progress toward independent national existence within an alliance of free and friendly commonwealths under the British flag. Had the opposition confined themselves to a demand that the government should make larger beginnings in the way of naval construction and should accept, for instance, the Admiralty's first suggestion for the building of a full fleet unit, including a Dreadnought, they would probably have come nearer the popular note. But in bowing to the vehement outcry of a few ultra-British sectionalists for direct contributions, they have weakened their case and placed themselves out of harmony with the general chorus of Canadian public opinion.

THREE LIVELY BOUTS IN BOSTON ARMORY

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 1.—The main bout between "Pal" Moore of Philadelphia and Henry Miers of Charlestown, at the Armory A. A. tonight was stopped in the eighth round, after Miers had been knocked down eight times—four times in the sixth, twice in the sevent hand twice in the eighth rounds. Moore let Miers do all the work in the early rounds, and then stepped in and cut the Charlestown boxer to pieces.

"Tommy" O'Keefe of Philadelphia was given a decision over "Kid" Goodman of Boston at the end of ten rounds of hard fighting. O'Keefe administered a severe punishment to his opponent, and while the local man scored frequently he was out-punched.

"Honey" Mellody of Boston, received the decision over Frank Perron of Pawtucked, R. I., in ten rounds, the latter stalling all the way through.

RADIUM AS A CANCER CURE

11 Cases Reported by Dr. Abbe

BELIEVES IT A SPECIFIC

In Certain Cases it Should be Tried Before Any Operation

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—Dr. Robert Abbe of this city, the foremost advocate in this country of radium as a curative agent in the treatment of cancer, recently read a paper before the Practitioners' Society on "Radium as a Specific in Giant Cell Sarcoma," in which he recounted some eleven cases of cancerous tumors of rather unusual characteristics, all of which apparently had been cured by radium. Some of the patients were present at the meeting and were examined by the physicians present.

The paper is printed in full with details of the cases in The Medical Record. In conclusion, Dr. Abbe says:

"This review of a group of cases of one type of malignant cell growth, all showing peculiar, I may say unique, retrograde changes, tending always to return to the normal, gives a demonstration of the efficacy of radium, as clear to the clinical student as a demonstration of Euclid on a classroom blackboard.

"There is no similar record in surgery, as far as I know. It may be supplemented by other remarkable cases in radium literature dealing with sarcoma and epitheliomata. The disappearance of a round cell sarcoma of the eyelid, which I have shown before this society, is a notable one.

"Again, in a remarkable destructive sarcoma of the humerus, where the bone had fractured in the growth, reported by Dr. W. G. Morton of this city, the skiagraphs show the cure by a radium treatment of six weeks. I have recently read a letter from the patient, who uses her arm as well as the sound one for all purposes, washing, ironing, etc., and remains cured after five years.

"We have, then, to face a pathological and surgical problem which needs explanation. Why should an overgrown mass of a certain group of cells of the body, like these marrow cells, grow riotously and constitute a tumor which absorbs healthy structures opposing its expansion and destroy the body in a manner justifying its name 'malignant'? And, again, when the powerful Becquerel rays emitted from radium penetrate the mass, why should the retrograde of all malignant cells proceed with orderly retreat, until the tumor has entirely gone? Or, again, how shall we explain the reassembling of original cells out of the mass, so as to shape the parts like the jaw bone, the roof of the mouth, the humerus, etc., so that the appearance and function are restored?

"It is a bold speculation that permits one to venture in this field of biology when master minds admit ignorance of what constitutes the vital force which energizes each cell, and constitutes life as a whole. Yet we may be permitted to suggest that there are already known definite facts as to the nature of the tremendous force, travelling in straight undeviating lines, each carrying an electric charge, if, indeed, they are not themselves electricity; speeding at 70,000 miles a second; retarded by dense objects, like masses of lead or steel, or bone or stone, only to escape beyond and resume their travels into space. It is recognised that radio-activity exists everywhere, but it is only when we concentrate it in our powerful little tubes that we can study definite effects.

"The alpha, beta, and gamma rays have different electric charges, and different effects. The alpha are suppressed entirely in the glass tube. The beta, carrying negative currents, escape feebly, and the gamma, carrying its own electricity, penetrate everything. Is it not conceivable that the riotous overgrowth of cells constituting a tumor may be due to a loss of equilibrium in the balance of electric forces sustaining the normal cell growth, and that the supply of one needed element —possibly positive electricity, possibly negative—will restore the balance, and enable the cells to resume their orderly growth?

"The surgical estimate of giant cell sarcoma is one of a varied degree of malignancy. Wide removal of the apparent disease is undoubtedly more often curative than in other types of actively growing tumors.

"My conviction is that every case of myeloid sarcoma should be given treatment by radium before any operation and that we may expect many cures."

GERMAN DIPLOMAT TO WED AMERICAN GIRL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Another American hostess will be added to the diplomatic circle in Washington by the marriage of Miss Constance Hoyt and F. von Stumm, third secretary of the German embassy. The engagement was announced yesterday.

Miss Hoyt is the daughter of Henry M. Hoyt, counsellor of the Department of State. No date has been set for the wedding, but it will probably take place in the spring.

Through the marriage of Miss Hoyt Mr. von Stumm's family will welcome an American bride for the third time in as many generations. Mr. von Stumm's mother was Miss Pauline von Hoffman, of New York, who was known for her beauty, and his grandmother was Miss Grimes, of Staten Island.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA