

THE HERALD

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Electors Do Your Duty.

A very serious responsibility rests upon the electorate in the districts in which the Provincial Government have brought on the by-elections. It is of the utmost importance that every qualified voter in these districts should place himself on record on the 16th of March. Let none be lulled to carelessness by the thought that this being a bye-election, it is not necessary to go to the polls. The reputation of the Government is more emphatically at stake in these elections, and their conduct of public affairs is a subject of even keener criticism than at a general election. The Government, well knowing that the great body of the electorate have no confidence in the administration, may be depended upon to exert all manner of means to get votes for their nominees; nothing will be left undone and no "human device" will be left untied to secure support for the Government candidates. In consequence of the Governments' unscrupulousness and their utter disregard of political honesty it behooves the people to be on their guard and not allow themselves to grow careless in the exercise of their prerogatives as the law makers of their country, through their representatives in the Legislature. With the record of the Governments' incapable, extravagant and scandalous administration of our Provincial affairs for the past thirteen years before them, the people can have no difficulty in concluding that no further confidence should be extended to an administration that has falsified every promise solemnly made to the electorate, broken every pledge by which honorable men should be bound, wasted and misappropriated the taxes of the people, instead of judiciously and economically expending them where and when they would do the most good. We have time and again, given the facts and figures of the Governments financial record, and these facts and figures are more than enough to emphatically condemn and forever consign to political oblivion the Government and party now unfortunately controlling the public affairs of this Province. When the Liberals assumed power in 1891 the Leader of the Government, Mr. Frederick Peters, laid down as a plank in the platform of his Government that revenue and expenditure should meet and that the era of deficits was at an end. At that time the debt of the Province was about \$128,000, and as the Conservatives had assumed about \$51,000 of debt from the Davies Government about \$77,000 was all the Provincial debt for which the Conservatives are, or should be held responsible.

From that day to this the Liberal Provincial Government have been engaged in making revenue and expenditure meet with the result that our Provincial debt is now about \$700,000. The era of deficits was to cease and our Liberal friends have accomplished this end by rolling up average annual deficits of about \$50,000. While they were engaged in accumulating these huge deficits, they were at the same time extracting over \$40,000 a year taxes from the pockets of the people. The deficits and taxes taken together amount to upwards of \$90,000 a year, and what have the people to show for it? Is there anything to show for all this extravagance of the Government? From \$18,000 to \$25,000 a year are taken from the people under the name of road tax; but it is not used as road tax; but is put in with the rest of the money and wasted on favorites of the Government. In the mean time the summer and winter roads are in a worse state than ever they were. Their financial misadministration of Provincial affairs does not complete the indictment of the Government. They stand guilty of so amending the controverted elections law as to withdraw from the courts cases pending there and confirm in their seats members of their own party who had no right to sit in the Legislature. They have had the temerity to dictate to a Judge of the Supreme Court that he should change his report regarding the sworn evidence of witnesses relating to bribery and cor-

ruption in the Grit ranks, and failing in this passed an act of the Legislature changing the law, so as to white wash the guilty ones. In addition to all these political offenses they have refused to submit to the Legislature evidence regarding the expenditure of public money paid by the Government to members of the House in contravention of the independence of Parliament Act. Not only that; but the Attorney-General of the Province, went into court and strove to save the guilty one from the penalty which his infraction of the law necessarily inflicted upon him. All this has failed, as we have seen and the judges of the Supreme Court have declared a member of the Executive guilty of all the penalties involved; the forfeiture of his seat in the Legislature, and the payment of a heavy money fine. Other members of the Legislature and the Executive have like cases hanging over them and may at any time be brought into court for trial.

In view of all these facts, the question naturally arises; are the electors of the districts now opened prepared to condone all these political offenses; all these prostitutions of the privileges of the Legislature; all these trappings on the rights of the people; these flagrant violations of the laws?

Are the electors of these districts satisfied that rolling up the debt to \$700,000 is the proper way to make revenue and expenditure meet? Are they satisfied that an annual expenditure of \$35,000 in excess of their predecessors is an evidence of economy in the public service; are they satisfied that collecting \$50,000 a year in taxes and giving the people nothing in return is of any particular advantage to the Province? Are the people satisfied with a Government that brings disgrace and ridicule upon us by allowing members of the House and the Executive to violate the law of the land, and to be driven from the Legislature and condemned to pay heavy fines by the judges of the Supreme Court? Are the people satisfied with such incapable extravagant and disgraceful conduct as these political crimes involve? If they are not, and if they want not to hang their heads in shame, but to walk erect as free citizens enjoying all the privileges of independent electors, they will all go to the polls on March 16th, and vote for the opposition candidates.

Our Ottawa Letter.

VICTORY, SWEEPING AND PRO-PHETIC.

The Liberals are on the run in the eight by-elections in which contests took place, two Conservatives were elected in East Lambton and East Bruce by greatly increased majorities. The Liberal stronghold of St. John, N. B., which gave Hon. A. G. Blair a majority of 897 in 1900, reversed its decision and placed a Conservative at the head of the polls by 285 votes. In Quebec the Liberal majorities were cut to pieces in three instances and reduced in a fourth. In Prince Edward Island, too, the electors of West Queen's which has always been a Liberal hive, reduced the Liberal majority of 1900 by two-thirds.

Such is the result of one day's voting. It was the first opportunity afforded the people of expressing themselves in regard to the Cox railway deal and the protection of Canadian industries. That they are unalterably opposed to the first and in favor of the second is established by the great overturn in favor of the great Canadian party of progress. Compared with the elections of 1900 there was a change of 4,553 votes in the eight constituencies—an average of 570.

The Conservative gains are all the more remarkable in view of the efforts put forth by the federal government and three provincial governments to save the day. General Manager Hays, of the Grand Trunk, wrote a personal letter to Mayor White of St. John on the eve of the fight, giving a carefully veiled promise of future development in that city by the G. T. P. In Hochelaga the Grand Trunk openly supported L. A. Bivet, the Liberal candidate, and saved his scalp. Sir Wilfrid took part in the Quebec campaign and his personality, rather than the issues of the day, constituted the government platform. In all the eight constituencies bribes were held out in the shape of public works and even threats of ostracism were made that, in the event of Conservatives being el-

ected, public improvements, national in character, would be withheld. Money was also freely used, but in spite of all these "human devices" the Conservative party scored a notable triumph. It only remains for the general election to complete the overthrow of the party of extravagance and opportunism.

SIR WILFRID VS MR. BORDEN.

The recent bye-elections marked the first important skirmish between the forces as led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and those directed by Mr. R. L. Borden. Both leaders took an active part in the campaign and the honors rest with the Conservative leader.

Mr. Borden, during the past few months, spoke in West Queens, P. E. I., St. John, N. B., East Lambton. The majorities in those ridings in 1900 and 1904 were as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Riding, 1900, 1904, gain/loss. Rows include West Queens, St. John, East Bruce, East Lambton.

Total Conservative gain 2,233. Sir Wilfrid Laurier confined his attention to Quebec. A monster reception was tendered him by his supporters from St. Hyacinthe, Hochelaga and St. James Division, and by every oratorical artifice the Premier endeavored to promote the Liberal cause. In Montmagny the son of Sir Wilfrid's late law partner was placed in the field by the Prime Minister, so that the campaign was indelibly stamped with Laurierism. It is, consequently, of great significance that Sir Wilfrid's speeches were thus responded to:

Table with 4 columns: Riding, 1900, 1904, gain/loss. Rows include St. Hyacinthe, Hochelaga, St. James, Montmagny.

Total Liberal loss 2,320. Sir Wilfrid Laurier cost his party 2,320 votes: Mr. Borden gained 2,320 electors for his party candidates. The explanation of the Liberal defections and Conservative advances is that while Sir Wilfrid has made it a point to play the part of an opportunist, Mr. Borden said what he meant and meant what he said. The people appreciate the party which has one policy for all Canada.

LIBERAL HYPOCRISY AND THE PREFERENCE.

A little more than a year ago during the bye-election campaign in Argenteuil, Hon. Sydney Fisher and other ministers lost no opportunity of denouncing the Conservative party as enemies of the British Preference. Largely on that ground the electors were urged to vote for the Liberal candidate. Like most cries from government orators, this one proves to have been nothing more or less than gross hypocrisy. For months past Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has been fighting for a mutual preference for colonial products. He stepped down from his lofty position in the Imperial councils, and sacrificing his political future he is manfully championing the cause which found such hearty support from Mr. Fisher, et al, in Argenteuil and elsewhere.

But where is the promised support of the Laurier government? The Premier, offered during the last session the unanimous support of the opposition to a resolution favoring Mr. Chamberlain's policy, refused to accept it. His opposition to a mutual preference was the signal for every leading Liberal newspaper in Canada to denounce Mr. Chamberlain. Almost the leading spirit in the attack on the preferential movement is Mr. Fisher's personal journal, the Montreal Herald. That organ, which receives thousands of dollars from the government and Mr. Fisher, has made it a point to denounce Hon. George E. Foster for daring to support a Mutual Preference. Yet these are the very sources from which Conservatives are criticized for their opposition to the British preference. The public must be getting tired of this new two-faced policy of the party in power.

G. T. P. DEAL WAS HUSTLED THROUGH.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier claims for the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, that it received long and careful attention at the hands of the government. The official records of Parliament show that such is not the case. On pages 447 and 448 of the Hansard of 1903, will be found a motion by Hon. J. Isreal Tarte for copies of all correspondence between the government and the Grand Trunk, Mr. C. M.

Hays et al, in relation to a new transcontinental railway. Hon. A. G. Blair at that time (March 25th, 1903) was Minister of Railways. On behalf of the government he asked that the motion be withdrawn, giving as a reason, "Communications entirely verbal have taken place between the government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Company, but no definite conclusions have been arrived at." Sir Wilfrid confirmed Mr. Blair's announcement. That was on March 25th, when the G. T. P. proposition was looked upon as a purely private venture. Yet it was only four months later, July 30th, that the Premier launched his scheme calling for a public expenditure of \$151,000,000. It must not be forgotten that from March 25th to July 30th, Sir Wilfrid was a busy man and could, therefore, give little attention to the deal to which four months could have been profitably devoted without any interruptions. Not a word in writing on March 25th, and the whole deal through before July 30th, is a record for such a plunge. It would be hard to credit the story were it not that in the official reports of Parliament confirmation of its authenticity is to be had of such competent witnesses as Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Blair. It is no wonder that Mr. Blair characterized the deal as a plunge into the dark.

THE MINISTERS ON THE RAIL.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, accompanied by a party of friends, left last night by private car for Texas. They expect to be absent for a fortnight.—News Item.

The government private cars are being overworked. Mr. Sifton is the fourth Minister to leave Ottawa within a few weeks "by private car." Sir William Mulock took a run down to Mexico, where he has been having a good time with President Diaz. Mr. Fielding had an outing in the Southern States. Mr. Emmerson has been travelling in the special car built for the Prince and Princess of Wales, and Mr. Sifton is being hauled to far away Texas enjoying himself at the country's expense.

What delightful trips these must be. As Mr. Sifton passed through the snow covered fields of Canada, chatting with his friends and contentedly puffing a fifty cent cigar, with what pity must he have watched some sterling farmer working away in a temperature far below zero, in order to earn the money which goes to pay for those pleasant excursions of the Liberal ministers.

Perhaps some woodman was sent by the now wealthy Mr. Sifton. If he happens to be a good workman he is paid one dollar per day and found. The ladies in the car probably sympathized with the "poor rough fellow." But a request to "pass the cigars, porter" quickly banished all thought of the "man who pays for the car, the smokes and the sumptuous dinners," and in a few minutes many days pay of the hard working lumberman went up in smoke.

It is true that Mr. Sifton and his fellow ministers were at one time hotly opposed to private cars. But it is so different now. And who, when basking in the warm rays of a Texas sun, cares to think of the chap who makes a dollar a day, pays the increased duty which the Liberals imposed on his tobacco and sugar, and incidentally contributes the funds which buy fifty centers for the "democrats to the hit" and pay their and their friends' railway and other expenses.

LIBERALS STICK BY CORRUPTION.

Liberals are firmly convinced that political corruption is essential to party success. During the last session of Parliament every possible obstacle was placed in the way of a bill to deal more stringently with violations of the Dominion Elections Act. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. W. S. Fielding, after pledging their support to a measure calculated to suppress election crimes, flatly refused to keep their promise and repudiated the work of a special committee named by the government to enquire into the whole question.

The reason for this course was made clear during the recent by-elections. Money was used extensively, and public works were promised without any regard to their ultimate usefulness. In the city of St. John, where the Liberal candidate was snowed under, the Conservative party offered to give a bond signed by ten reputable party men that no money would be used for corrupt purposes. They requested the Liberal leaders to do the same, but the commendable offer was

promptly rejected. The government managers, at the head of whom was Hon. H. R. Emmerson, declined to run a pure campaign. Their case was hopeless and money alone could change public opinion. The Liberals thus lost a golden opportunity to elevate Canadian politics. With the example of Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Fielding to guide them, perhaps the St. John followers should not be too severely blamed.

Mr. Borden.

The better class of papers comment freely upon Mr. Borden's popularity and success.

It is said by the Montreal Gazette that "He gains personal as well as political friends."

Again, it is said, "Mr. Borden has steadily grown in political stature. He commands the attention of the House of Commons when he rises as markedly as does the Prime Minister. He receives the courteous attention of large audiences where-ever in his campaign tours he is announced to speak."

Further, it is remarked that "those whom he does not convince pay him the tribute of saying that his words are plain, his platform distinct, and that he declares the same principles and advocates the same policy where-ever he goes. Such a man merits respect aside from his policy, and when his policy is clearly in the general interest, he becomes a force. Mr. Borden is such now. He leads his party and he leads it to success."

Another declared that Mr. Borden has deeply impressed the constituencies he has visited for the purposes of public discussion.

The Petrolia Advertiser, speaking of his presence in East Lambton, says: "It was known before he came that he is a statesman of fine parts, and that he is admired in Parliament for his splendid judgment and for his skill in debate, but there are other qualities which those who had the pleasure of meeting him at once discovered. As we found him, he is affable and extremely approachable. He has no affectation. His appearance is distinguished, and singles him out at once as a man of mark."

Again of Mr. Borden it is said "he not only gained the approval of the people owing to his attractive personality, but because of his work on the platform, which took rank with the deliverances of the best statesman this country has yet produced."

In Bruce, the opinion of Mr. Borden is equally high and the Mail and Empire states that the leader of the Opposition has brought to the performance of his important duties most desirable qualities. He is a master hand in Parliament, both as a tactician and as a debater. Personally he is kindly in the extreme. On the public platform he is a clear cut speaker, presenting his views without unnecessary fireworks, and impressing his hearers with his sincerity, his ability and his honesty. Of the affairs of the country he has a wonderful knowledge, and this although he has been in Parliament only since 1896. There is not a question of administration or of legislation the history of which he does not give a wise judgment. That he should have reached the high position he occupies in the public mind is to be attributed to the fact that he is well equipped and well balanced man, who works hard, and with a single eye to the interests of the country. He is a growing force, and will rule with firmness and justice.

Blowing up of a Stove.

The frost of Saturday night caused the bursting of a kitchen stove front at the home of Dr. Melanchnin, East St. Monday morning, and the burning almost miraculously escaped causing an awful fatality.

The accident also illustrates the extreme care which is necessary in regard to heating and bath room apparatus in the cold weather.

In this case we learn that the bath was used on Saturday night and the hot water was practically all taken out of the boiler which stands in the kitchen. The fire was allowed to go out during the night one of the pipes which makes the circulation between the boiler and stove became frozen.

In the morning the servant made out the kitchen fire and the water in the stove front of course very quickly heated and as the frost had cut off the water from the boiler it made steam at once and first thing the whole front of the stove blew out. Parts of it flew through the window, part broke a table, part embedded itself in the wall opposite and part broke the back of a chair in which the doctor's little girl was sitting a few seconds before. It was fortunate indeed that the little one had just gotten up to go into another room or she would have been killed instantly.

A fire was raging in the business part of Rochester, N. Y., on Thursday last which had already been damaged to the extent of six million dollars. E. W. Schuster, capital of Monroe County, New York is situated on the Genesee, seven miles from Lake Ontario and on the Erie Canal. It is an important railway centre with manufactures of ready made clothing, boots and shoes, flour, beer, tobacco, carriage, and furniture. It has an important trade in coal and many nurseries. It contains the University of Rochester (Baptist)—Baptist Theological Seminary on observatory, and charitable and reformatory institutions. There are three falls of the Genesee within the city limits. Its population is 170,000.

News of the War.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—Three Japanese soldiers disguised as Chinese coolies who were recently hanged for trying to blow up Sanguan Bridge in Manchuria, were officers belonging to the Japanese general staff. They were Colonel Asai of the Engineers, Lieutenant Asaba of the navy and Lieutenant Kaurai of the Sappers. They were tried by Court Martial and were hanged from the parapets of the bridge which they sought to destroy.

London, Feb. 24.—Again there is an important news concerning the Far East. The belief is growing that land operations on any considerable scale are likely to be deferred perhaps for months but this view is based on deduction rather than upon known facts. There is no confirmation of the reported naval attack on Port Arthur last Saturday; neither is there news of either fleet.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—One matter which the Minister of Militia is likely to take up when he returns to the capital at the end of the week is, whether Canada should endeavor to learn what she can from the Russo-Japanese war, by attaching several officers to one side or the other, as non-combatants to follow the campaign. Sir Frederick probably desires to talk it over with his colleagues before a decision is reached, as the outfit would be considerable.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—It is officially announced from Port Arthur that four Japanese battleships and two Japanese transports were sunk in a fresh attack on Port Arthur. The attack was repulsed.

London, Feb. 25.—It is reported that the Japanese attack on Port Arthur is confirmed. Most of the accounts concur in stating that the Japs were repulsed with loss of certain small vessels.

At present there is no version of the attack from the Japanese side; but from Russian despatches and those furnished by special correspondents it is apparent that Admiral Togo tried to repeat on a larger scale the feat performed by Hobson at Santiago with a view of sealing up the harbor and bottling the Russian vessels within. They sent some small steamers laden with explosives and escorted by torpedo boats and what happened is not accurately known. The object may have been attained notwithstanding the alleged repulse, for it is confidently stated that the vessels were sunk and apparently near the mouth of the harbor.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 25.—A telegram from Viceroy Alexitski to the Czar says: "At a quarter before three on the night of Feb. 24th, numerous Japanese torpedo boats attempted to attack the battleships Retvizan and others and sink the larger steamers loaded with inflammables. The Retvizan was the first to observe the torpedo boats and opened fire on them. She was supported by the land batteries. She destroyed two steamers near the entrance of the harbor. They were coming directly toward her. One of them went on the rocks near the light house and the other sunk under Golden Hill. The Retvizan observed four steamers in a sinking condition and eight torpedo boats departing slowly to rejoin the waiting Japanese ships. A portion of the crews of the Japanese vessels were drowned on the grounded steamer. The still surviving Japanese crews saved themselves in boats and it is possible that some of them were picked up by the enemy's torpedo boats which came and were proceeding to examine the coasts. The entrance of the harbor is still open. I attribute complete derangement of the enemy's plan to the brilliant action and destructive fire of the Retvizan. Floating mines are still visible in the roadstead. I have recalled three cruisers sent in pursuit of the enemy, in order, in the first place, to clear the roadstead of the floating mines. We had no losses."

No general engagement of Japanese and Russian armies in the far east has yet taken place, although an encounter in Korea territory Feb. 19 is reported in which a Russian reconnoitering party of Cossacks took several Japanese prisoners, including a major named Taisawa. The Cossacks found maps and plans on the prisoners. The mobilization of troops is rapidly proceeding, however, and the prediction is repeated in St. Petersburg despatches that a decisive battle will soon be waged near the Yalu River.

Japan, it is stated, looks upon all food stuffs as contraband of war, and plans to starve Port Arthur into surrendering. The Mikado's fleet absolutely controls the water approaches to the city. Within a fortnight, according to St. Petersburg despatches, the Russians will have 100,000 additional troops in Manchuria. The Russian Mediterranean fleet has left Jubail, French Somaliland, presumably to join the Baltic fleet, according to a despatch from St. Petersburg. The Russian ministry of finance has warned merchants to remain south of Shanghai, as it learns that Japan has stationed a squadron of one battleship, four cruisers and 11 torpedo boats off Amoy, China. The loss of Russian regiments at Lake Balkal is denied.

Public subscriptions have been started in Russia to build submarines, torpedo boats and cruisers. The Grand Duke Michael is in charge. Chinese prizes are so active that coasting trade in the eastern seas is almost at a standstill. The United States gunboat Wilmington has returned to Shanghai from Chefoo, under direction of the navy department. Only 30 per cent of the population remains at Port Arthur. With reference to the sensational stories of a disaster to Russian troops at Lake Balkal it is explained that the trans-Balkal line was blocked at the Balkal station during the night of Feb. 18th, by an avalanche of snow which fell from a neighboring mountain. A Russian battery of troops on board dashed into the obstruction, the locomotive was derailed, and in the succeeding five cars one soldier was killed, five were severely injured and 14 were slightly hurt. Traffic was expected to be resumed the following day.

Aden, Feb. 22.—The British mail steamer Mongols, of the Peninsula and Oriental Company from London for Sydney, reports that when she was 460 miles north of Aden on Saturday she met a Russian battleship and four torpedo boat destroyers. One of the latter endeavored to cut her off, but failed. All the Russian squadron then gave

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