

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT WILL WIN.

By A LIBERAL.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER will win in the great contest at the polls, which terminates on November 7th, because he stands for all that is best in politics to-day. Under his administration Canada has enjoyed prosperity at home and gained prestige abroad. His Government must be judged upon its record during the four years that it has administered the affairs of Canada, and upon that record, I believe, that every fair and impartial elector will vote on November 7th to give the Liberals of Canada another lease of power.

During the four years of Liberal rule, Canada has enjoyed phenomenal prosperity in every department of commercial and industrial life. The vast resources of the country have been developed, foreign trade has been promoted, the finances have been marvellously improved, deficits converted into surpluses, taxation has been reduced, the tariff has been removed from politics, manufacturers have been placed on a sound and stable basis, and a dangerous and burning question, dividing religious denominations and setting race against race, has been settled and removed from the arena of federal affairs. Far more, a wholesome Imperial sentiment has been developed by the granting of a specific preference of 33½ p. c. to British goods—a free will offering to the mother country from the greatest of her Colonies; and by the sending of Canadian soldiers to share in the glories of the British arms on the battlefields of South Africa, Canada has become a real factor in the British Empire.

Apart from the record of the government which in itself demands renewed confidence, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will win. The country is with him. The trend of sentiment is in his favor. The people believe in him as a true Canadian, first, last, and all the time. They have faith in his patriotism, his loyalty, his integrity and his spotless character, and they will, I doubt not, return him to power to complete his great life-work of promoting unity, harmony and amity, among the diverse elements of this country, and of making Canada a nation within the British Empire.

But perhaps the reason transcending all others in these "Khaki" days, why Sir Wilfrid Laurier should and will retain the confidence of the people of Canada, is that he is an Empire builder. He stands, as no other Canadian does, for Imperial Unity. He is, as the Times says, "a master speaker of the Empire."

As to the outlook I believe that the Conservatives will carry Lunenburg and one

seat in Pictou, and have at least an even chance of carrying Hants, and Annapolis, one seat in Cape Breton County and one seat in Halifax. If they carry all these seats and no others in Nova Scotia, the position of the parties from this Province in the new House will stand 6 Conservatives to 14 Liberals. I consider the above estimate a fair one.

It must always be borne in mind that at one time Nova Scotia was a Liberal Province, but when the Conservatives obtained power in 1878, the strength of the Liberals began to weaken, and the Conservatives received excellent aid from the influence exerted by large manufacturing industries throughout the Province, and the active influence thrown in their favor by the I. C. R. and a large portion of the Civil Service. The coal counties also gradually went over to the Conservative side. Now, all these weighty forces are either friendly to the Liberals or inert. Only shrewd politicians can realize what a tremendous change that represents.

Take for instance a county like Pictou, and imagine a mine manager intimating to his employees in one election, that there would be great danger of dismissal if they voted for the Liberals. In the following election imagine that mine manager being openly friendly to the Liberal government, and then realize how such a change must affect a mining vote. If in addition to that fact these miners have been busier, and have received better wages since the advent of the Liberal government, how do you suppose the miners will vote? Apply the same state of facts to the iron manufacturing industries in the same County, and how do you suppose it will affect the votes of their employes? The same observation applies to Cumberland, to Cape Breton County and to Halifax.

The Liberal party will win in Nova Scotia for the same reason that they will win in the other Provinces. The Liberal government has done big things in a business-like way. Almost every Cabinet Minister is an expert in the work of his department.

Take Fielding, Cartwright, Mulock, Sifton, Fisher, Blair and Patterson as examples. They are clean men and splendidly qualified to discharge the duties of heads of such Departments. Now take a piece of paper and write down the name of Conservative candidates who would be equally good in such Departments. In the judgment of an impartial business man the Conservative party just now has no such available material. Therefore the reflecting business man will vote Liberal.

The only hope that the Conservatives had of ousting the Government is in the fact that its leader is a French-Canadian and one of his most active lieutenants is a French-Canadian. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's record, however, has silenced such criti-

cism as against himself. As for Mr. Tarte, there was some hope that some of his utterances would inflame Ontario. But Ontario is prosperous, the farmers are busy, the business men know that Mr. Tarte's talk is simply "fireworks," and Ontario is weary of the race and religious cry. It has been tried there for a quarter of a century and yet the Ontario vote has fluctuated less than that of any other Province. Ontario knows that the Conservatives would cater for the French vote just as readily as the Liberals.

A Conservative friend of mine living in London, Ontario, and having special sources of information, wrote me last week that Ontario would give a majority for the Liberals. Where then are the Conservatives to win? Certainly, not in the Maritime Provinces. Certainly, not in Quebec. Even if they get every seat in the West it would not be sufficient for victory, and no one pretends that any such result can happen.

To Sum up: The Opposition had very little ammunition in this campaign and they used it too soon. The cry against the French-Canadians raised by the *Montreal Star* was started too soon and its effect was destroyed by the publication of a French edition of the *Star* printed on the same press and called *Le Journal* in which a very opposite cry was raised. The trick was too transparent.

The people in Canada will return the Liberal Government to power on their record and because of the personnel of the Cabinet. Canada will not consider this period an appropriate one for "a change" which would be a "leap in the dark."

PUBLISHER'S PRIVATE TALK.

In this number we have found it necessary to utilize several pages of space for our "Welcome Home" and "Political" articles which by right belong to other departments. Readers of the *BLUENOSE* will therefore kindly over look the omission in view of the fact that the subjects substituted are of paramount interest at the present moment.

We are anxious to give our people a good weekly paper; one that will compare favourably with those published in cities of very much larger population than Halifax, but if we do not at first secure the high standard at which we aim, we know we will do so by and by. Honest and continuous effort and a study of what will make a readable as well as a useful Saturday paper are bound to show in our work as we grow older in experience.

The man who is constant in whatever he undertakes may always be relied upon to secure success.

A great many suggestions have been given us by friends who are anxious that the *BLUENOSE* should make a permanent place for itself in the esteem of the best people; and it has been a source of no little perplexity to us as to how many of them are good and how many are not. We want the *BLUENOSE* to be a home paper, a clean, earnest, healthy journal that will have a good influence wherever it goes. If you can help us to attain this ideal, you will have our deepest gratitude.