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CIVIC ELECTIONS.

So far very little interest seems to have been taken in the municipal elections. This is to be regretted for the prosperity of the citizens requires that the next City Council be composed of good men. The election of a Cabinet Minister has for a time diverted public attention from civic affairs. This is, in a sense, to be regretted, for it is most important that the affairs of the city should be well managed. But it is not yet too late to select the best men available as candidates for seats at the City Council Board. In voting for City Councillors business considerations should be paramount. The City Council is really a business organization. It has work to do which affects every man and woman and child in the city closely and directly. If that work is well done the comfort, the convenience and the health of the citizens will be well and intelligently cared for, and the interests of the city generally advanced. If it is badly done and if much of it is neglected, citizens of all classes and of every age will suffer to a greater or less extent and the city's advancement will be retarded or perhaps stopped altogether. Very few citizens, as far as we can see, take the trouble to consider to what extent the welfare of the city is in the hands of the City Council. If they did we are quite sure they would take a greater interest in the city's affairs than they do, and be more anxious than they have hitherto been to elect capable men to the office of City Councillor.

It is not a little singular that many civic electors in choosing men to manage the affairs of the city for them do not appear to be actuated by the same principles and motives as they are when they are required in their private capacity to choose men to do business for them which they either cannot do themselves or do not find it convenient to do. When a citizen wants his horse shod he does not ask his neighbor the carpenter to do it for him, neither does he engage the services of a tailor or a baker to do the job. He goes at once to a blacksmith, and the best blacksmith, too, that he knows or that is available. He wants his horse well shod and he does not inquire what church the blacksmith goes to or whether he is a good or a bad talker. He does not want to know anything about his politics. Whether he is a Grit or a Tory is perfectly immaterial to him. It is nothing to him whether the blacksmith is a good or bad neighbor, or whether or not he nods to him when he meets him on the street. Is he a good shoer of horses? is the only question he asks. If he finds that he is, and if he is pleased with the work the smith has already done for him, he takes his horse to that man's forge without any more ado.

But when a civic elector is asked to give his vote for a City Councillor the ability of the candidate to do the work of a City Councillor is about the last thing that the fluent canvasser talks about. The voter is told that the candidate is a fine man, that he is thought ever so much of in such and such a church or in such and such an organization. He is a fine speaker and can give those who oppose him fits. His politics are so and so, and he has decided views on this or that social or economic question. Besides he is a good neighbor and a real nice fellow. He once did your sister's son a great favor and was very good to your wife's second cousin some time ago. A hundred reasons are given why electors should vote for that particular candidate, except the right one; in fact, little or nothing is said about his qualifications for the position. The consequence is that in by far too many instances men are elected to the Council who have not the remotest idea how a Councillor's work should be done, and who have no capacity for doing it if they did know.

It is to be hoped that this year electors will inquire chiefly into the ability of a candidate to do the work of the position to which he aspires, and that personal considerations will have no weight with the electors. A good citizen will vote against his own brother without hesitation if he believes that he does not possess the qualifications necessary to make an efficient member of the City Council. He should choose a City Councillor for the same reason as he chooses a doctor, or a lawyer, or a carpenter, or a tailor; and that is, because he is satisfied he understands the business and can do it well.

If the majority of the electors regard fitness and honesty as the main qualifications for the office of Councillor, Victoria this year will have a good City Council. But if the majority are influenced by other considerations, if they vote for candidates because they like them, or because they are good neighbors and fine talkers, the Council cannot fail to be an indifferent or it may be a very bad one. We do hope that electors will be careful how they vote and that the best men available will be elected.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

The office of School Trustee is an honorable one, and we trust that men and women well able to perform its duties, and who have an adequate conception of its responsibilities, will offer themselves as candidates and be elected.

We are proud to be able to say that the way in which Mrs. Gordon Grant has performed her duties has fully realized the expectations of those who advocated the election of a woman as a member of the Board of Trustees. That lady will, we have not the slightest doubt, be again elected. Another lady is this year in the field, but not, we presume, as an opponent of Mrs. Gordon Grant. Her claims to be elected will no doubt be favorably considered by the constituency. There is now, we are glad to see, no prejudice against lady trustees to be overcome. We do not know at this moment who are the other candidates for the vacant seats, but it is to be hoped that gentlemen well qualified in every way for the position will be induced to offer themselves for election. Intelligent and capable men who have the interests of education at heart will find in the office of School Trustee congenial occupation and ample scope for their talents and their energies. The citizens should remember that the success of the city schools in a great measure depends on the kind of persons they elect as city trustees.

CUBA.

If reliance is to be placed on the telegrams from Cuba, the struggle in that Island cannot last much longer. The insurgents have of late without doubt made great headway. The boom of their guns can, it is said, be heard in the capital of the colony. It is quite possible that the royalist general, seeing that he can in the open country do very little to defeat the guerilla bands that are scattered all over the island, has concentrated his forces in Havana in order to get an opportunity of meeting the whole of the insurgent forces on a field in which disciplined troops can fight with some effect. It does not appear that there has been so far a single engagement in Cuba at all worthy the name of a battle. The rebel bands have annoyed the royalist army and have purposely avoided a general engagement. Fever has from the beginning of the insurrection been the most effective ally of the rebels. It has killed at least twenty men to one that has been slain by the bullets of the guerillas.

This year's campaign will, without doubt, cause much loss to the Cubans and great suffering in the near future, for the rebels are destroying the crops and wrecking other property on the plantations.

BELOW REPROACH.

On the editorial page of the Times of the 6th inst.—the day of the election—in a leading article we find the following expression of self-satisfaction:

"The men who supported Mr. Templeman have nothing to reproach themselves with, either in the position they took or in their manner of conducting the contest."

On the first page of the same paper is a portrait of Mr. Laurier and under it this telegram, which is on a fair way to become historical in this constituency:

"LAURIER IS CALLED IN.

"CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL THIS AFTERNOON AT OTTAWA.

"BOWELL IS CONTENT TO GO UNDER, HAVING DEFEATED THE TUPPER DESIGN.

"OTTAWA, Jan. 6.—Laurier was telegraphed for last night and will reach here at noon on his way to the Governor-General. The Government organs all announce the Ministers' resignations this morning.

"OTTAWA, Jan. 6.—Mr. Laurier has arrived and will meet Lord Aberdeen this afternoon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell in accepting the resignation of the bolting ministers left them so they cannot get back into the Government without getting re-elected. Bowell is now satisfied to go under, having defeated the machinations of Tupper. There will be no session. Laurier will ask for a dissolution."

Several days have elapsed since the exigencies of election day required "the men who supported Mr. Templeman" to manufacture and circulate the above telegram, and Mr. Laurier has not yet been called in. Have the men who concocted that elaborate lie for the purpose of cheating electors out of their votes nothing to reproach themselves with?

VIRTUOUS INDIGNATION.

The Times since the election has become very sensitive as to its reputation for truthfulness. It says that our "insinuation" that the men who supported Mr. Templeman manufactured and circulated the lying Laurier telegram is a "direct falsehood." Now we ask, if the men who manufactured and circulated that roorback were not supporters of Mr. Templeman, who and what were they? Supporters of Col. Prior would not concoct and circulate such an abominable and stupid lie.

The Times says that Mr. Christie can testify to the genuineness of the telegram. Very likely. But can Mr. Christie testify that the man who manufactured it was not a supporter of Mr. Templeman? Among the "smart Alecs" who wasted their time and exhausted their ingenuity in inventing false reports and monstrous lies in Mr. Templeman's interest the Times' Ottawa correspondent appears to have been the most active and industrious.

It is, too, not a little singular that the telegram appeared in confirmation of a prediction that had been made in the Times, and that almost immediately after it was received a flaming placard which it must have taken time to prepare appeared on the streets and at the polling places. The Laurier lie was without the shadow of a doubt manufactured, reproduced and circulated by "men who supported Mr. Templeman."

VAIN BOASTING.

The Vancouver World, which is an adept in the art of crowing, boasts loudly of the gains which the Liberals have made here in Victoria during the last five years. It of course takes for granted that every elector who voted for Mr. Templeman at the late election is a Liberal. Is this the case? We are sure that it is not. Quite a number of Conservatives voted for Mr. Templeman because they did not approve of the stand taken by the Government on the Manitoba school question and because they believed that Mr. Templeman was conscientiously opposed to interference in the matter of education with Manitoba. On all other questions they were, after they polled their votes, as much Conservatives as ever. We are quite sure that these electors do not regard themselves as converts to Liberalism.

When the Liberal policy on the school question, as expounded by Mr. Laurier himself in Montreal Centre, comes to be generally understood the Conservatives who on Monday voted for the Liberal candidate because they were opposed to interference with Manitoba and because they do not approve of separate schools, will be even more strongly opposed to the Liberal policy than they are to that of the present Government. When they are fully convinced that Mr. Laurier's object is to *restore* separate schools to Manitoba, they will see his policy is, from their point of view, even more objectionable than that of the party which favors remedial legislation. If to oppose remedial legislation makes a Conservative a Liberal, in what position will such Liberals be when they find that the main object of Mr. Laurier and his party is to restore separate schools to Manitoba. They will then find themselves, to use a common but very forcible simile, "out of the frying-pan into the fire."

The simple truth is, the vote cast for Mr. Templeman is very far indeed from showing that Liberalism has greatly increased in Victoria during the past five years. That the number of Liberals has increased in that time there can be no doubt, but the increase is not to be attributed to conversion, but to immigration. The Liberals who have come to Victoria have naturally retained their Liberalism; but the missionary work which they have done does not seem by any means great. They have made very few converts indeed, if they have made any.

The introduction of the Manitoba school question, which has really nothing to do with either Liberalism or Conservatism, was a disturbing element in the late election. But its influence will, we have no doubt, be transitory. When the views of the Liberal leader on that question come to be known and the action of the Liberal party seen, those Conservatives who have voted for a Liberal candidate because they are opposed to interference with Manitoba will find that they did so while under a false impression. They will find they have been deceived by untruthful representations and by indefinite and ambiguous statements as to the position of the Liberal leader and the Liberal party on the question, and they will without doubt resent the deception that has been practised upon them.

Then the persistent denials that Col. Prior had been appointed to a seat in the Cabinet had their effect upon many electors, who considered it of the greatest importance that British Columbia should be represented in the Cabinet of the Dominion. These electors now see how they have been deceived, and it is not by any means likely that they will ever again place confidence in the men who so deliberately and so unscrupulously misled them.

We are quite certain that Liberalism, properly so called, has not made any inroad on Conservatism in this constituency of Victoria and that the apparent increase in the Liberal vote at the late election was accidental and temporary.

SURFACE AGITATION.

The disturbance in the Government and the disagreements among the ministers do not, we are satisfied, extend to the Conservative party as a whole. That Conservatives are not a unit on the Manitoba school question is beyond a doubt, but it is also true that the Liberals are equally divided on that difficult subject. If Mr. Laurier were elevated to power to-morrow he would have precisely the same difficulties to face in the country and within his own party as Sir Mackenzie Bowell has to meet. It is well known that many Liberals demand that any government that is in power shall restore to the minority in Manitoba the privileges with respect to religious education of which that minority have been deprived; and there are quite as many, perhaps more, Liberals as there are Conservatives who are strongly opposed to any interference with Manitoba's school legislation. How to deal with the perplexing question is equally embarrassing to both parties. But if it were eliminated from the politics of the Dominion the indications everywhere show that the two parties have pretty much the same relation to each other as to principles as they had five years ago.

The Montreal Gazette, whose loyalty to the Conservative party is unquestioned, in view of the recent defeats in Cardwell, Montreal Centre and Jacques Cartier, believes that the time has come for the Conservative party to examine into the cause of the weakness which these by-elections have made manifest, and to make such changes as will enable its leaders to avail themselves of the strength in the country which it undoubtedly possesses. It says:

It is for the Conservative leaders of this Province to consider this feature of the situation, and to discover, if they can, the causes of the large defection of Conservative voters from the party they so long co-operated with. It is for Conservatives everywhere to bring their influence to bear to restore some of the old confidence to the party. Its cause is good. The Conservative trade policy has been justified by the country's progress in material wealth. It was especially justified during the recent commercial crisis, when Canada alone, almost, among the nations, stood as the embodiment of business stability. It is also the duty of the Government to consider itself. It needs to stop drifting. It needs to show that it can govern. It needs to show that its members can act together on minor matters, as well as talk together on serious ones. It needs to complete the membership of Parliament by filling the Senate vacancies, and by issuing the writ for Charlevoix. It needs to show that it can say no, where it is not prepared to say yes. It needs to stop its practice of holding Cabinet meeting after Cabinet meeting to decide matters that a strong minister should be able to decide in half an hour. It needs, indeed, to show that its members are fit for the positions they have been entrusted with, and for the leadership of a great party, a party that has shown its capacity for constructive statesmanship, that has, indeed, made Canada what it is as a nation, that has won in four general elections in succession, and that has still the capacity to win again, if it heeds the sharp lesson it has received, and uses its strength aright.

The Gazette is perhaps unduly disheartened by the local defeats, but a little plain speaking will do the Conservative leaders no harm. Some of them seem to have forgotten that a party, in order to retain power, must be as prudent, as circumspect and as desirous to meet the wishes of the people as when they were seeking to gain power. The principles of the Conservative party are as sound to-day as ever they were and the confidence of the people in its trade policy is unshaken. All that it needs is wise and energetic leadership to be as progressive and popular as ever it was. Such leadership, according to latest reports from Ottawa, the Conservative party is likely to have.

THE RIGHT VIEW.

Harper's Weekly is not deceived as to the nature of the Monroe Doctrine. It does not believe that it is a message sent from Heaven which men in every part of the world must receive as divine. It does not even look upon it as part of the law of nations, according to which the Powers of the world must regulate their policy as far as the continent of America is concerned. This is what it says about that much discussed doctrine:

"The further discussion of this phase of the question which might have led to a satisfactory result has, for the present at least, been cut off. All argumentation about the Monroe Doctrine as a part of international law to be recognized as such by the whole family of nations is idle. The Monroe Doctrine is a rule this country keeps for its own purposes. The maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine and its construction and application to this or that case is not a question of law, but a question of power. If we are willing and also strong enough to maintain it in whatever shape against the adverse interests or pretensions of other nations it will be maintained. If not, not. It is, therefore, useless to trouble ourselves or others about the formal recognition of the Monroe Doctrine as a part of international law. The question turns now, as it will always do, upon a specific case, and we have to ask ourselves in each instance whether and how far we consider the safety and greatness of the country—for which Mr. Cleveland makes his appeal—is involved in the case, and in which way we can protect this safety and greatness without unnecessarily disturbing the peace of the world.

This means that the Americans have really no warrant for this doctrine of theirs. No nation is under the least obligation to observe it and it is wholly without authority unless the United States is strong enough to enforce it. It is in fact a mere expression of the will of the people of the United States and its recognition depends solely on the ability of the United States Government to enforce it. The principles of justice or of sound international polity have nothing whatever to do with it.

NOT WORTH HELPING.

It is evident that the Transvaal imbroglio will not be productive of the serious consequences that were apprehended a few days ago. Both President Kruger and the British Government are pursuing a common sense course. Dr. Jameson must accept the consequences of his audacious acts. He must have known when he entered upon the enterprise of invading a country with which the nation was at peace that the alternatives that were before him were complete success or utter ruin. He no doubt counted upon the enthusiastic co-operation of the Uitlanders, who complained so bitterly and with such good reason of the way in which they were treated by the Government of the Transvaal. They failed him and he must accept the consequences of failure. We are not surprised that the people of Cape Colony are disgusted with the conduct of the Uitlanders. They have evidently forgotten that

"Who would be free themselves must strike the blow."

They appear to have been willing that Dr. Jameson and his little band of filibusterers should sacrifice themselves for their sakes while they looked on with cowardly indecision. It is said that the Uitlanders were overpowered by an army of twenty thousand Boers. This cannot be true, for there are only sixteen thousand burghers in the whole republic, while the Uitlanders are nearly four times that number. It is not likely that any attempt will be made by their countrymen after this to help the Uitlanders, let their treatment by the Boers be what it may.

TELEGRAPHING EXTRAORDINARY.

The organ of the Opposition has evidently a high opinion of the value of the telegram with its sensational headings as a means of political instruction. It seems to be of the opinion that a lie is not a lie when it is embodied in a telegram or proclaimed in a flare heading. Its Ottawa telegrams during the late campaign should be preserved as specimens both of audacious mendacity and ingeniously false and misleading prediction. And we find, now that the contest is over and that falsehood and absurd exaggeration can accomplish no immediate political purpose, our contemporary continues to practise upon the credulity of its readers in the most impudent way.

The first thing that attracted the eye of the reader of Thursday night's Times was the heading in big, black capitals, "A Derelict Government." Everyone knows that a ship that is derelict is one that is abandoned by its captain and crew and is drifting about at the mercy of the winds and waves. The Government which the Times in this emphatic and conspicuous way proclaims to be derelict is the Dominion Government. Now everyone knows that the Dominion Government is not derelict. Its commanding officer is at his post and the Ministers are doing their duty much too well to please the Opposition who are most desirous to take their places. In the next heading the editor ventures a prediction. He declares that the Government is drifting to inevitable destruction. After his election predictions have been so signally falsified it is surprising that the editor should so soon go into the prophesying business again. The Government is not drifting and it will in a day or two be seen that its destruction is not inevitable. We do not think that it is wise to risk one's reputation as a prophet on a prediction which may be proved to be utterly false in a day or two. The reputation of the prophet of the Times has, one would think, been damaged enough already, without his unnecessarily running the risk of making himself utterly ridiculous.

The omniscient editor tells the readers of the Times that the Government are "trying to buoy themselves up with hopes of temporary reconstruction," and that "Lord Aberdeen cannot stand this disorganized state of affairs much longer." Being only an ordinary mortal, it is simply impossible for the Times editor to say what hopes the Government entertain or what are their intentions, and he makes a very heavy draft on the gullibility of the readers of the Times when he tries to make them believe that Lord Aberdeen has taken him into his confidence and told him how he regards the situation in Ottawa. Yet the editor does not qualify his statement in the least. He positively declares that the Governor-General "cannot stand" the existing state of affairs "much longer."

The reader of the telegram finds that the Governor-General has not only made a confidant of the editor of the Times but has also taken its Ottawa correspondent to his bosom and told him without reserve how he feels and what he has done. Of course the correspondent does not keep such important information to himself. He immediately imparts it to all the world, or at least as much of it as read the telegrams of the Times. The passage is a curiosity. Here it is:

"Lord Aberdeen is so puzzled over the mix-up which is now going on in the Cabinet that he has sent a cipher message to Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking his advice under the present difficulties."

His Excellency must have felt relieved when he unburdened himself to the sympathetic Times correspondent, but there may be some who will say that it was not exactly the right thing for that correspondent to take advantage of Lord Aberdeen's weakness and to abuse his confidence by telegraphing the confidential communication to the organ of the Grits in Victoria.

There are, we fear, wicked people in Victoria who will express surprise that the editor of the Times would be so unutterably stupid as to publish the lying and absurd rubbish which the Ottawa correspondent of his paper was fool enough to send over the wires.

BOERS AND UITLANDERS.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The secretary of state for the colonies, Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, has sent the following despatch to President Kruger: "I have received the Queen's command to acquaint you that Her Majesty has heard with satisfaction that you have decided to hand over the prisoners to Her Majesty's government. This fact will redound to your credit and conduce to the peace of South Africa and the harmonious co-operation of the British and Dutch races, which is necessary for its future development and prosperity."

The Boer government at Pretoria is showing discontent at the reluctance displayed by the Rand men to disarm. It is estimated that 30,000 of the latter have been armed, and only 2,000 have yielded up their arms. The position at Johannesburg is critical and the Boer leaders have the utmost difficulty in restraining their men. A proclamation has just been issued calling upon all the Rand men to disarm before 6 o'clock on Friday evening under pain of prosecution. Those complying will be pardoned except the leaders of the revolt. There is a feeling here that the Rhodes charter will be cancelled to prevent further disorders.

A dispatch to the Times from Johannesburg confirms the report that sympathy with Dr. Jamieson makes the Uitlanders reluctant to disarm, but as it is estimated that there are 20,000 armed Boers around the town there is no fear of any further rebellion.

BUSINESS IN CANADA.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Bradstreet's report the bank clearings for the Dominion of Canada as follow: Montreal, $12,782,187, increase 10.4; Toronto, $10,135,913, increase 28.2; Halifax, $1,687,130, increase 35.4; Winnipeg, $1,540,306, increase 40.0; Hamilton, $904,801, increase 11.9; total, $27,050,337, increase 19.4—a gain of about one-third compared with last week and one-quarter as compared with the corresponding week a year ago. There were 53 business failures reported from the Dominion of Canada this week. Last week the total was 38, but in the corresponding week one year ago there were 53, while two years ago there were 47.

The usual dullness is reported from Nova Scotia, where the weather has made the roadways very heavy. General trade conditions are improved in Newfoundland, but the Prince Edward Island country roadways are almost impassable and the movement of merchandise is light. The volume of trade among jobbers at Montreal is light, and commercial travellers are just starting out. The price of leather is hardening. The lack of snow is a drawback to business, which is most active at Toronto among dealers in dry goods and hardware. General trade there is quiet.

HALIFAX, Jan. 9.—The Legislature opened this afternoon. In his speech Lieutenant-Governor Daly stated that although the past year had not been marked by prosperity, there had been a degree of progress in the province.

TORONTO, Jan. 9.—John Carroll, aged 17, died at the general hospital last night from the effects of a terrible scalding received by falling into a vat of boiling water, over which he was stooping to wash his hands.

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DR.
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CREAM
BAKING
POWDER
MOST PERFECT MADE.
A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant.
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