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Special Articles

Varieties of Wheat and Their Adaptation to
Localities.

By R. Harcourt.

What of the Night?

By J. W. Macmillan.

Attracting Subscriptions to the New War Loan.

By H. M. P. Eckardt.

Organization of War Charities.

By W. E. Dowding.

Conditions in the West.

By E. Cora Hind.

Newfoundland Trade Notes.

(Special Correspondence.)

Thetford Mines Strike Over.

(Staff Correspondence.)

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South-West Toronto

SELDOM has there been in Canada a by-election in which political and other issues were more mixed and muddled than in the one that took place last week in South-West Toronto, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Hon. J. J. Foy. The enactment of the prohibitory liquor law was largely responsible for the chaotic conditions that arose. The Conservative convention nominated Mr. Norris, who proclaimed himself a supporter of the Hearst Government in all things but prohibition. On that question he declared himself against the government and favorable to such amendments to the law as would allow the sale of wines and beers. The regular Liberal organization put no candidate in the field, yet two Liberals ran. One of them, Mr. Waldron, defined his position as a Liberal anti-prohibitionist. Mr. Connor appeared as the nominee of the Socialists and was the only candidate to give an unqualified endorsement to the prohibition policy which both parties in the Legislature had approved. At the eleventh hour Mr. Hartley Dewart, a well known Liberal lawyer, entered the field, taking the ground that as prohibition—or "abolish the bar"—had been adopted as the policy of Mr. Rowell and his followers in the House, he, Mr. Dewart, accepted it, but held himself free to act as he thought best in any "emergency" that might arise in the further consideration of the subject. The press situation became a strange one. Three Conservative journals, the Mail, News and Telegram—the latter only at a late hour—gave their support to Mr. Norris, notwithstanding his rejection of the main feature of the Hearst policy. The Liberal Globe found no candidate in the field whose position it approved and its editorial columns were silent in the contest. The Liberal Star gave its support to the Socialist candidate. The Conservative World, conducted by Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P., which has been carrying on a campaign against both the Borden and Hearst Governments on the nickel question, warmly supported Mr. Dewart. There was a vigorous platform campaign, in which two members of the Hearst Government came to the assistance of Mr. Norris. Many things were talked of by the speakers—the war, prohibition, nickel, hydro-electric service, bi-lingualism, the old flag, etc.—though what bearing some of them had on the election was not always clear.

The Conservative candidate, supported by the Mail, News and Telegram, was defeated by a large majority. Mr. Waldron, who had no newspaper support, polled a small vote. Mr. Connor, the Socialist, supported by the Liberal Star, met a similar fate. Mr. Dewart, the Liberal, supported by the Conservative World, was elected by a large majority over Mr. Norris.

Woman Suffrage

IT cannot be denied that the movement favorable to the granting of the suffrage to women has of late made remarkable progress. What but a few years ago was regarded as the fad of a few eccentric people is to-day, in all parts of the United States and Canada, and to some extent in Great Britain, taking a place among the recognized problems of the time that have to be met. In England it will be contended that the movement has been injured rather than aided by the foolish, and in some instances criminal, conduct of the militant women. On the other hand, the women will be able to say, with some truth, that the conduct so severely reprehended was the most available means of arousing the British people to a sense of the importance of the question. The attention of the public certainly was obtained, but the attitude of the majority of the British people was changed from one of mild doubt to one of confirmed hostility to the whole movement. That hostility has, however, been much softened by the better conduct of the militant women since the war broke out, and by the splendid service that British women generally are rendering in almost all departments of affairs. That the suffrage movement in the Mother Country will at the close of the war take on a new shape is quite certain, and that some concession to it will be made in the early future is altogether probable. This much was virtually admitted by Mr. Asquith in a recent speech.

On this side of the Atlantic the movement has made much progress, the women in a number of States having obtained the right to vote. Now the question is thrusting itself into national politics. But a little while ago the leaders of the great parties would have smiled at any proposal to treat woman suffrage as one of the serious problems requiring recognition and consideration. Now, all the great parties—Republicans, Progressives and Democrats—have deemed it expedient to give the question recognition and a considerable degree of approval in their platforms. Undoubtedly they have been influenced in this direction by the fact that the franchise is in the hands of the States and that in the States where the vote has already been granted the women are numerous enough to prove an important factor in the Presidential election. The Progressives have been the most unqualified in their approval of woman franchise, their platform declaration, unanimously made, reading as follows:

"We believe that the women of the country, who share with men the burdens of government in times of peace and make equal sacrifice in time of war, should be given the full political right of suffrage both by State and Federal action."