

## Did Better Than Laurier.

**G**REAT as has been the success of the Laurier Ministry in Canada it has been exceeded by that of the Bond cabinet in Newfoundland. With 35 constituencies polled Sir Robert Bond has carried 29, and in the one remaining he has a good prospect of winning also. In the last House he had 32 seats out of the 36, in this House he is sure of at least 29. This is a remarkable result, all things considered, for the Bond Government had to face a situation unique in political annals—an amalgamation of all the front-rank politicians on the Island not connected with the Ministry, for the express purpose of ejecting it from power. The idea gained strength in certain quarters that the country was disaffected and would welcome a chance to overthrow Bond, and so the Goo. ridge-Morine and Whiteway-Morison parties were formed, to take advantage of this, both of these factions trying to claim the Opposition leadership. But failing in this and recognizing that a three-cornered fight would be disastrous to themselves, they combined, and included Sir James Winter also, making a united party with five leaders of the strongest calibre, apparently, and with substantial monetary backing and large commercial interests also operating in their behalf. Yet their very strength proved in time to be their greatest weakness, for it suggested to the electors the impertinent query—which of these men will lead?—and the further prospect that if they were all successful their warring ambitions would destroy the Administration almost at its birth, as the struggles between Winter and Morine brought to ruin the Conservative Government elected in 1897 with a following of 23 men, after a brief and inglorious career when all the

circumstances should have ensured for it a reign of years and usefulness unequalled by any Government that had ever attained office here.

The result of the contest is that four out of the five leaders is defeated—Morine alone retaining his seat. Sir Wm. Whiteway, who contested Harbor Grace against Hon. E. Dawe, Minister of Fisheries, was left at the foot of the poll, being beaten not only by Dawe and his two colleagues, but also by his own running mates. To this outcome the fact that he had a legal "claim" filed against the Colony for \$30,000, for alleged special services during the period he previously held power contributed not a little. The Bond Ministry declined to pay the claim, and the Government writers and speakers argued that Whiteway was only in politics to secure that amount, an argument which clearly had much weight with the electors. Morison, Whiteway's lieutenant, who faced Bond at Twillingate, met almost an equally ignominious reverse. Although Grand Master of the Orange body, and using sectarianism very largely, according to the accusations of his opponents, he secured only fifth place on the poll, being beaten by Bond and two colleagues by 1,000 votes and also outstripped by one of his own confreres. Mr. Goodbridge, the leader of Morine's wing, and the one fixed for Premier if Bond was overthrown by the Opposition, had better fortune in Placentia, inasmuch as that he led his own ticket, but he was 1,000 votes behind the third Liberal. In this district Mr. Goodbridge tackled Hon. E. M. Jackman, Minister of Finance, and had to contend with the odium of his connection with the Bank disasters of ten years ago.