

London Advertiser.

TWO EDITIONS DAILY - WEEKLY.

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London, Wednesday, November 23.

A Newspaper Mystery.

When Mr. Blair suddenly resigned from the Railway Commission, the announcement was made in connection therewith of the purchase by a Mr. Russell, said to be a friend of his, of several prominent papers in Montreal and St. John. And the two things combined, we were assured by the Conservatives, were to strike the death-knell of the Liberal Government. As the great results that were expected by our friends the enemy did not materialize, people are now speculating as to what it all amounted to, and as to what the hidden springs of the movement were. Events, an Ottawa weekly, brings out some new ideas in regard to the connection with the affair of La Presse, one of the papers supposed to have been purchased by the syndicate of capitalists, who were going to run the country. It says:

"One of the most interesting incidents of the La Presse move was the refusal of the editor in charge, Thomas Cote, to publish the editorial prepared by the syndicate, and which was, of course, hostile to the Laurier Government. It is said that when they brought the stuff to the office of La Presse Mr. Cote laid a revolver on his desk within reach, and told them he would shoot the first man who tried to put such stuff in the paper. He held them off successfully, and now there are two new reports. One is that La Presse is not to remain under the control of the syndicate, and that for his services Mr. Cote is to be given the seat in the House of Commons for Gaspe. We believe this latter report to be accurate, and congratulate Mr. Cote on it, and the former is a likely thing. One more interesting fact is that three days before the sale of La Presse was announced to the public it had actually been sold to the campaign manager of the Republican party in the United States, Ex-Secretary Cortelyou is the name, and the fact is based on good authority. He wanted to use the paper to influence the large French-Canadian electorate in the New England States. Mr. Russell ought to satisfy the public curiosity in regard to all these things. He might emulate the other great men, like Mr. Borden, Mr. Flynn, Lord Dundonald and Mr. Whitney, and issue a manifesto to the people of Canada, who should know if the money power is to edit the daily press of the Dominion."

A Fair Investigation.

When the Gamey charges against the Ontario Government were sent to a commission of judges for investigation there was a great outcry by the Conservatives. It was true that Judges Boyd and Falconbridge had long been out of politics; and have always had a good reputation as impartial jurists. That made no difference. And when they pronounced the man from Manitoulin untruthful, and refused to believe his sworn statements, because they were inconsistent with each other and with the facts, the outcry became louder. The judges were declared to have been influenced in giving an unjust verdict, because they were expecting money from the Government. Of course, it would have been hard to give a verdict that would have satisfied Mr. Gamey's friends. But most people would have thought that the verdict of a commission of judges, after the fullest kind of an investigation might have passed as fairly reasonable.

On last election day, Mr. Porter and some other Conservatives of Belleville sent broadcast over the country a sensational charge against a Liberal candidate in Eastern Ontario, Liberals everywhere promptly called for an investigation; and we were assured that the Government intend immediately prosecuting an inquiry. Reasonable people would have been willing to wait a day or two and see what was done. That, however, did not suit the Conservatives. The man who made the charges did not care, apparently, to wait for the ordinary course of justice. He wanted to select a tribunal. Taking advantage of some remarks by a Liberal paper, which were certainly very mild, he brings a charge against the editor, and for libel; goes outside of their own town, selects some Conservative magistrates, two of them we believe former members of Parliament, and one of them, it is claimed, being a personal enemy of one of the defendants, and lays his charge before them.

When the commission that tried Gamey is contrasted with the commission before whom has been laid the Porter charges, one can imagine what sort of an uproar would have been made had Mr. Ross adopted Mr. Porter's tactics. However, it does not matter. There will be a thorough ventilation of the whole affair. If Mr. Porter's commission fails to bring out all the facts, we can depend on an investigation before some of the regular courts. That is all the Liberals of the country ask for—a full investigation, a fair trial, and punishment for the guilty.

Political Parties in the United States.

The defeat of the Democratic party in the United States has been so complete that the question has arisen among politicians in that country whether it has not outlived its usefulness, and reached the end of its existence. In the presidential elections of 1896 and 1900, the Democrats were defeated, but the defeat in both cases was no greater than a party might expect to have, and yet hold its own as an influence in the country, with reasonable prospects of victory in

the future. But 1904 was an overwhelming disaster. Not a single eastern, northern or western state gave a majority for the Democratic candidate for President. And for the first time since the reconstruction following the civil war, the "solid south" was broken—it is no longer solid for the Democracy. Can it recover from this defeat?

In 1896 the Democratic party was divided. The majority adopted a policy in regard to the currency which was condemned by large numbers of those in its own ranks, and many who had never voted Republican before broke from their party allegiance. In 1900, the internal condition of the party was very much the same as in 1896, its candidate was the same, and the result of the election was the same. The dissatisfied Democrats claimed that these successive defeats were due to the policy adopted when Mr. Bryan became the leader, and clamored for a return to the old ways and the old men. This was practically done when Parker was chosen as candidate, and the policy of 1896 repudiated by him. Apparently, harmony was accomplished in the desire for victory, and Mr. Bryan and his friends fell in line behind a "Gold Democrat." The result was the greatest defeat the party ever had experienced.

And now they are all looking for a remedy for the future. The more conservative Democrats admit that "the old simple beliefs are steadily but surely fading away," that the Democracy of which Cleveland was the spokesman and leader is practically dead. Mr. Bryan declares for a reorganization on a radical policy—evidently meaning a programme of opposition to trusts, capitalists, plutocrats and all combinations of wealth—a policy which shall cry "the masses against the classes"—a policy which shall find a place for populism, socialism and all other "isms" that can be brought together on a common platform. In this he is supported by Mr. Hearst, the unsuccessful candidate for the party nomination. On the other hand, many of the Southern papers declare emphatically against populism, and as the South has always been the mainstay of Democracy, the defection of that section would be worse for the party than was the defection of the gold Democrats in 1896.

To an outsider, it looks as though both a new policy and new men will have to be evolved, if a Democratic party—or a party which shall claim to be its successor—is to come to the front, with any hope of success. There will have to be new lines of cleavage. The Democrats who favor protection will have to become Republicans. And a new party with some definite object in view, whether its policy be laudable or not, will gather in the dissatisfied of all classes, and unite them in a some common cause—real or apparent. Democratic speakers and papers, during the late contest, had much to say about Democratic principles, but it has not been easy to distinguish them. We used to think that the Democratic party stood for revenue tariff as against protection. But when the party was in power the tariff proposed was not only an incomplete illustration of the party theories, but was not acceptable to either the protectionists or free traders in the party ranks. And that one plank was really the only distinctive plank in the party platform.

Principles are all very well in theory sometimes, but a party to be successful must have some principles that it can put into practice when it has the opportunity. Otherwise, it will be an administrative failure—to be swept out of power the first opportunity given the electorate, and kept out of power thereafter, until a new generation comes to the front. It may be that this will be the fate of the party which has gone down to defeat in the United States. The Republican party has so great a majority in Congress that it may become unwieldy, and the dissatisfied will secede. The conservative Democrats may go over to the Republicans, while a more radical section of the Republicans may leave and form new alliances with what remains of the Democracy. Four years may see a marked change in both the policy and the personnel of each party. At all events, though the Republican leaders and platform should remain the same, it is safe to say that the Democratic party will be something other than it is now.

One Drawback.

[Somerville Journal.]

Hicks—I understand that you have had a telephone put in your house, Mrs. Wicks must find it a great convenience.

Wicks—Yes; but she doesn't like it half as well as she thought she would. You see, when she is using it she has to listen half the time.

A Handy Foot.

[Chicago Journal.]

O'Rafferty—Deez yer iver walk in yer slaps?

O'Lafferty—No; if Oi could Oi'd be on the force yet.

Doing Well.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]

"How well Mrs. Packenham holds her age."

"Yes. She had ceased to be a mere girl even before Port Arthur began to fall."

A Common Failing.

[Washington Star.]

"If ev'rybody worked as hard," said Uncle Eben, "holdin' down a situation as dey does gittin' it dey wouldn't be no business dat wasn't well run."

Killing as a Sport.

[London Truth.]

During the past season 131 stags have been killed in the deer forest of Glenquoich, Inverness-shire, which is rented by Lord Burton from Mrs. Elliot, of Invergarry. Seventy-seven stags were killed on the five beats of the north forest, average weight 14 stone 7 pounds, and 54 on the three beats of the south forest average weight 14 stone. There were 17 stags of over 16 stone. Lord Burton killed 23, Mr. Baile, of Dochfour 16, William

Bass 15, Lord Harlech 12, and P. Mildmay 11. Other successful "hunts" were the King, the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch, Lord Savile, Sir Seymour McDonnell and Capt. Seymour Fortesque.

Nutritious.

[Houston Post.]

"What would you think of a man who would feed breakfast food to his chickens?"

"I should think the chickens would be laying for him."

The Poetry Vanished.

[Litt.]

"Why, how could you break your engagement with poetry?"

"We were weak together."

Poor King!

[Montreal Star.]

A Toronto artist is going to paint a portrait of the King. God save the King!

Starn Reproof.

[Catholic Register.]

An incident was reported last week in a Toronto court where a judge administered to a lawyer pleading before him a most remarkable reproof. Father and mother stood charged with infanticide, and the circumstances revealed in connection with the crime were of a peculiarly painful character. Perhaps on this account one of the defending counsel ventured to dwell upon the small value of an infant's life to society, whilst the picture of necessities confronting an adult oppressed by poverty. Not having heard or read the exact words in which the implied appeal to the sympathy of the jury was made, we can go no further than to say that whatever the language may have been it is to the credit and honor of the Canadian bench that the very nature of the plea distressed and offended Mr. Justice Falconbridge. His lordship deplored not only the callousness but the immorality of the argument, and reminded the jury of the value of human life as a sacred claim subject to no dissection of class or condition in the case of the weakling child or the humble plebeian.

A Master Stroke.

[Chicago Tribune.]

The lovely girl hesitated. "Tell me, Mr. Throgson," she said, "am I the first girl you ever loved?"

"I'll be honest with you, Miss Eunice," replied the young man. "You are not. But you are far and away the most beautiful."

The rest was easy.

Irishman's Chivalric Choice.

[Exchange.]

An Irishman traveling in France was challenged by a Frenchman to fight a duel, to which he readily consented, and suggested shillelachs as weapons. "That won't do," said the Frenchman, "your man's second."

"As challenged party you have the right to choose the arms, but chivalry demands that you should decide upon a weapon with which Frenchmen are familiar."

"Is that so?" replied the Irishman, coolly. "Very well, we'll fight with gutlinettes."

ships, and a playing member of the

town. For years he has been an officer

of the famous Brockville Football and

Rowing Clubs, being president of the

latter last winter. He is a patron of the

Bohemian Hockey Club, treasurer of

the Bohemian Athletic Association and

president of the Brockville Baseball

League.

Mr. Graham belongs to the Methodist

Church, and is a member of the

quarterly official body of the George

Street Methodist Church, Brockville.

He is also a director of the Y. M. C. A.

there. He is a past grand master of

the Ancient Order of United Workmen

in Ontario, and a member of the

finance committee of that organization.

McKay and Eantural.

Hon. Alexander Grant Mackay, K.C.,

is the son of Scotch parents, Hugh

Mackay and Catherine McInnis, his

wife, and was born in Sydneyham Town-

ship, Grey County, March 7, 1860. He

was educated at Owen Sound Col-

legiate Institute and the University of

Toronto, graduating with honors from

the latter in 1883. From 1883 to 1887

he was principal of the Port Rowan

High School, and in the last-mentioned

year he entered the law office of Mr.

Alfred Frost, of Owen Sound, then

county crown lawyer for Grey. An

honorary and scholarship law student, he

was called to the bar in 1891. In 1891

he was appointed crown attorney for

Grey, and in a position he resigned to

enter politics. He was first returned

to the Legislature in May, 1902, rep-

resenting North Grey for the

Liberal party. He was re-elected in

1903, and was appointed K.C. in

1902. Of recent years he has held

the position of secretary of the Owen

Sound, the county of Grey, and for a

number of large industrial concerns.

He is also a heavy shareholder and

director of the Ontario and Western

Company, of Owen Sound. He is generally

regarded as the leader of the bar in

his county, a position which he has

held for two sessions, and was

often complimented by both sides of

the House for the manner in which he

discharged the important duties of his

position. In particular Mr. Eantural's

facility in both the English and French

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