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ST. BONIFACE.

Great Victory of Lauzon
Over His Opponent
Bertrand.

DEPOSIT BARELY SAVED.

The Anti-Greenway Candidate
Elected by a Large
Majority.

DETAILS OF THE CONTEST.

His Grace Archbishop Langevin
is Interviewed by
a Reporter.

The bye-election in St. Boniface to fill the seat in the local legislature rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Prendergast was held on Saturday and its results speak volumes. Five hundred and ninety-six votes were polled, of these Mr. Lauzon, Conservative, received 383, and Mr. Bertrand, Liberal, 208, thus giving Mr. Lauzon a majority of 180. Had Mr. Lauzon received ten of the votes polled for Mr. Bertrand the latter would have lost his deposit. As it is the victory is a notable one. It is quite true that His Grace Archbishop Langevin openly directed his people to support the candidate who advocated separate schools, and this no doubt had considerable effect on the result of the election. But it is also true that two governments, the federal and local, took an active hand in the fight and resorted to all manner of means to elect Mr. Bertrand. The Nor-Wester has been informed that whiskey literally flooded the half-breed districts, ready-made clothing was handed out in bales to the needy Metis, and all in order to induce them to vote for Bertrand. Mr. Lauzon's supporters knowing of this beforehand traversed every portion of the riding and gave warning to the half-breeds. In one polling sub-division whiskey was visible during polling hours. The Metis drank plentifully of it and the result was they became so stupefied that they were unable to mark their ballots for Lauzon as they intended doing notwithstanding the bribes they had received. Another feature of the election is the fact that a majority of 78 against Mr. Lauzon in January, 1896, was turned into a majority of 180 for him. When Mr. Prendergast was elected in 1896 over Mr. Lauzon it was openly known that he received the clerical support, and it was a difficult task to make the half-breeds understand why in the course of one year this support should be turned from the Liberal to the Conservative. Many of the Metis in the country districts did not know there was an election until they were informed of it by the aspiring candidates or their agents. In one case three half-breeds drove into the town of St. Boniface to vote and before knowing of the Archbishop's wishes they had polled their votes for Mr. Bertrand.

The following tabulated statement gives the figures of each polling sub-division in the elections of Saturday and of January, 1896:

polling Sub-division.	Lauzon, 1896	Lauzon, 1897	Prendergast, 1896	Bertrand, 1897
*No. 1.....	16	16	38	34
*No. 2.....	46	56	36	22
*No. 3.....	22	35	34	16
*No. 4.....	16	55	50	20
No. 5.....	21	23	25	20
No. 6.....	19	20	16	15
No. 7.....	54	56	58	36
No. 8.....	16	28	23	16
No. 9.....	18	15	13	5
No. 10.....	48	84	64	24
Total.....	279	383	357	208

* Town of St. Boniface.

It will be seen from the foregoing table that Mr. Lauzon had a majority in every polling sub-division except one. In polling sub-division No. 1 Mr. Bertrand polled 18 votes more than did Mr. Lauzon, but the explanation of this is that in that sub-division there is quite a large sprinkling of English speaking voters who are Liberals. In the elections of January, 1896, Mr. Prendergast polled 38 votes in that sub-division, because of his being a Liberal. The heavy fall of snow Friday night had no little bearing on the result of the election. Had the roads been in better condition a larger vote would have been polled in the rural districts and it is safe to say it would have added to Mr. Lauzon's majority. But even as it is, Saturday's election is a remarkable one. It certainly must be considered a complete victory for separate schools. Had Mr. Bertrand stood by his guns and maintained the policy originally intended—that of accepting the settlement of the school question as satisfactory. Mr. Laurier might even in his defeat have some right to claim a certain amount of victory. But as it is the result of the election is an unqualified refusal to abide by the Laurier-Greenway settlement of the school question. Whatever doubt might have existed on this point was more than dispelled by Mr. Bertrand. As published in Saturday's Nor-Wester, at a meeting held at St. Adolphe last Wednesday, the following document was read:

"His Grace directs not to vote for a candidate:

1st—Who accepts the settlement.
2nd—Who wishes to save the same a trial.

3rd—Who acknowledges as his leaders men who approve of the settlement. I declare:

First.—That I have never accepted the settlement as such. It does not reinstate us in our former position. It does not remove the question from the political arena. My efforts in the house would be in the direction of improving the law in the Catholic sense.

Secondly.—I assuredly expressed the opinion that it would be advantageous to give the settlement a trial. It is now forbidden to us to give or advise a trial of the same. I accept this disciplinary direction and submit to the same.

I condemn the adoption of the school laws of 1890, and will make it my duty to express the blame in the house. This also applies to my first and second declarations.

(Sgd.) S. A. D. BERTRAND.
According to the above Mr. Bertrand became as ardent a supporter of separate schools as was Mr. Lauzon, and no doubt his flop won many votes for him. But while Mr. Bertrand was thus declaring himself in one portion of the constituency, Mr. Perdue and Mr. Stephen Nairn were pouring forth quite a contrary doctrinal at Martin's school house, in support of the same Mr. Bertrand—a repetition of the tactics which placed Mr. Laurier in power. In the case of St. Boniface, however, such tactics failed miserably. In fact they have but added to the victory of the supporters of separate schools.

GREAT INTEREST TAKEN.

In a sense there was more interest taken in the result of Saturday's election than in any election that has been held for years in Manitoba. The election cut no figure as far as the local house is concerned, for the increase or diminution of Mr. Greenway's strength by one is of little import. The St. Boniface bye-election was looked upon almost in the light of a federal election, and more so, for an issue was at stake. Had Mr. Bertrand been victorious, the cause of Catholic Schools would be dead. Moreover, Mr. Laurier had over and over declared to his coreligionists in Quebec that the Catholics of Manitoba were satisfied with the settlement of the school question, and that it was Archbishop Langevin and his priests only who were keeping up the fight. Again the famous Mr. Cyr at a banquet given in Montreal heralded the fact that he hailed from St. Boniface and that all there were perfectly satisfied with the settlement. On the other hand His Grace of St. Boniface said there was no settlement. Who was to be believed. The electors of St. Boniface have given answer and now Quebec knows the actual state of affairs. From six o'clock Saturday evening till well on to midnight the Nor-Wester's telephone was kept constantly ringing, and the invariable query was: "How is St. Boniface." Nothing else was spoken of Saturday evening.

JOY IN ST. BONIFACE.

At eight o'clock Saturday evening six polling places had been heard from and they gave Mr. Lauzon a majority of 78. Mr. Lauzon's committee rooms were crowded with enthusiastic supporters all awaiting the final returns. About ten o'clock the results came in from the country points and when Mr.

Lauzon's majority was increased to 180, the enthusiasm became unbounded. Fire crackers were sent off at a prolific rate, a torchlight procession was formed and cheer after cheer for Lauzon rent the air.

HIS GRACE SPEAKS.

On Sunday morning in the cathedral of St. Boniface His Grace Archbishop Langevin preached from the gospel of the day. During the course of his remarks he expressed his satisfaction at the result of Saturday's election. He thanked all those who had followed his directions. To those who had been blind enough to disregard his advice he would not say an angry word. He could appear before them with a branch in each hand. The branch could be one of palms as indicative of victory, and cypress as signification of sorrow for those of his flock who had chosen to wander away. He would however, appear with an olive branch significant of peace, rather than with one of palm. He was sorrow to the bottom of his heart that there was even one of palm. He was sorry to the top-spoke of them as their father, and it was the dearest wish of his heart that those fathers who had wandered away from and deserted him their spiritual father would never be subjected to the pain which he now suffered, by the desertion of their own children. He repeated that a great victory was won on Saturday.

INTERVIEWED.

Archbishop Langevin kindly accorded a lengthy interview to a representative of the Nor-Wester on Sunday. His Grace was in his usual good spirits and in his wonted courteous manner welcomed the reporter.

"How does your grace feel over the St. Boniface elections?" asked the Nor-Wester.

"I consider it a very great victory. answered the archbishop.

"Then you are satisfied with the result?"

"Yes, I am satisfied. Of course I see that some Catholics must have voted for Mr. Bertrand, and this grieves me. But taken all in all the election is all right. Sometimes it is difficult to induce ardent party men to leave their party, even for their church's sake."

"Will this election have any effect in Quebec?"

"I cannot see how it can fail to have considerable effect in Quebec. St. Boniface has been declared to be satisfied with the so-called settlement of the school question, and surely Saturday's election must do away with all such illusion."

"Does your grace know of a mandement to be read in the churches next Sunday?"

"I cannot say that such a point has yet been reached. However, everyone knows that the Canadian episcopate are a unit on this question and moreover that they are in perfect accord with Rome on the subject."

Several visitors were waiting in the parlor to congratulate the archbishop on his victory, so the reporter withdrew.

PREVIOUS ELECTIONS.

Previous elections in St. Boniface resulted as follows:

1882—Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere 97, E. C. Richard, 44; majority for La Riviere, 53.

December, 1886—Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere elected by acclamation.

July, 1888—Roger Marion, 182, Jos. E. Cyr, 168; majority for Marion, 14.

1892—J. E. P. Prendergast, 313, Roger Marion, 312; majority for Prendergast, 1.

January, 1896—J. E. Prendergast, 357, J. B. Lauzon, 278; majority for Prendergast, 79.

STEINITZ IS DEAD.

London, Feb. 21.—A dispatch from Paris says Dr. Steinitz, the great chess player is dead at Moscow.

From the Daily Nor-Wester.

ST. BONIFACE.

The result of Saturday's polling is the election of Mr. J. B. Lauzon as member for St. Boniface by a majority of 180. Mr. Lauzon received 383 votes; his opponent, Mr. S. A. D. Bertrand, received only 208. One effect of the contest is that the Conservative party gains a seat in the local Legislature. Conservatives will derive some satisfaction from this, since the ranks of the Opposition in the Assembly may well be added to with advantage, not only to their party but to the province at large. It is not in the interests of good government that any administration should control so large a proportion of the Legislature as does that of Mr. Greenway. Mr. Lauzon will make a useful member of the Assembly. He is a good speaker in both French and English; he is a shrewd and successful business man, and,

though of French origin, he is, in most matters, thoroughly in touch with the sentiments of English speaking Manitobans. The electors of St. Boniface were invited to pronounce upon the general record of the Greenway government, as well as upon a particular portion of that record; and it is but fair to assume that in voting they kept in mind the many acts of maladministration of Mr. Greenway, and by their verdict have condemned his policy as a whole as well as in part. But undoubtedly the chief issue of the contest was the School Question. The contest was really a test of the feeling of the French Roman Catholics of Manitoba on the Laurier-Greenway "settlement," and Mr. Laurier, even more than Mr. Greenway, was on trial at their hands. Mr. Laurier had boasted that he had satisfied the Roman Catholic minority of this Province. Mr. Prendergast, the former member of the constituency, having accepted the settlement when a judgeship for himself was thrown in as part of the bargain, resigned his seat and nominated as his successor Mr. S. A. D. Bertrand, a Rouge of advanced views, who likewise was understood to have accepted the settlement. The gauntlet was thrown down to the Archbishop, and desperate measures were taken to secure sufficient votes for Mr. Bertrand to justify the claim that, even under the shadow of his own cathedral, the Archbishop's flock would not follow their shepherd in his uncompromising repudiation of the "settlement."

Messrs. Bourassa and Brodeur were sent up from Quebec to manage the campaign, and every known electoral device was utilized to ensure the success of this bold maneuver. The Archbishop took up the challenge. His sermon last Sunday week made plain the issue, and the Dominion waited with interest to see how many of his people would disregard his wishes. His opponents, however, soon found the fight utterly hopeless. Mr. Bertrand, in spite of his considerable personal popularity, in spite of the efforts of Messrs. Bourassa and Brodeur, in spite of promises of a railway through the constituency, in spite of the use of all the influence of the federal and provincial governments, in spite of an enormous "barrel," and in spite of his prospects of securing almost the entire Protestant vote of the constituency, found that if he continued in the field as a supporter of the "settlement," he would not save his deposit. Recognizing this, he recanted. He issued during the week a statement, which was as carefully circulated amongst the Roman Catholics as it was carefully concealed from the Protestants, announcing that he was an opponent and not a supporter of the "settlement." How thorough was that recantation may be gathered from a perusal of the following extract from it:

"I declare:

"First.—That I have never accepted the settlement as such. It does not reinstate us in our former position. It does not remove the question from the political arena. My efforts in the house would be in the direction of improving the law in the Catholic sense.

"Secondly.—I assuredly expressed the opinion that it would be advantageous to give the settlement a trial. It is now forbidden to us to give or advise a trial of the same. I accept this disciplinary direction and submit to the same.

"I condemn the adoption of the school laws of 1890, and will make it my duty to express the blame in the house. This also applies to my first and second declarations.

(Sgd.) S. A. D. BERTRAND."

This statement by Mr. Bertrand precludes the possibility of any claim being set up that votes cast for him represent approval of the Laurier-Greenway settlement. It allowed many personal and political friends of Mr. Bertrand to poll in his favor votes which under other circumstances would have been polled against him. In spite of his recantation, however, Mr. Bertrand saved his deposit

by only ten votes. The fact that he was originally supposed to favor the settlement operated disastrously against him. When the Protestant vote, the compulsory vote and the bought vote are subtracted from the total polled for him, it will be seen how very little bona fide French Roman Catholic support he received, in spite of his admitted personal popularity. The result shows unmistakably that the French Roman Catholics of Manitoba are unanimously opposed to the "settlement." Mr. Laurier has not satisfied them. The School Question, in fact, is not settled. There may be many who will think this deplorable. Still, we must face the facts. In view of the verdict of St. Boniface, it is now idle for Mr. Greenway to mutilate our National School System by proceeding with his proposed amendments; which Protestants do not want, and which Roman Catholics declare they will have none of. It is useless to do anything pending further developments. The election is certainly a tribute to the power of Archbishop Langevin over his people. It is a demonstration which will doubtless stimulate the Quebec Bishops to action. When an advanced Rouge like Mr. Bertrand succumbs in the end to ecclesiastical pressure, it may be confidently predicted that the Rouges of Quebec when it comes to the crucial test will not dare support Mr. Laurier in face of the mandements of their Bishops. Conservatives certainly will not rejoice at a prolongation of the unhappy struggle which their party, at much sacrifice, made so heroic an effort to settle; but they will not be without some secret satisfaction at the poetic justice of the situation should they behold Mr. Laurier ultimately overwhelmed by the storm be invoked for their undoing.

From the Daily Nor-Wester.

A MODERN RICHARD.

Mr. Greenway has amazing off-tenery to put up a candidate in St. Boniface at all after the manner in which he has treated the people of that constituency. In spite of solemn pledges to the contrary, he has destroyed everything politically most dear to them. He has killed their separate school system, he has made away with the official use of their language, he has cut down their representation in the legislature. And yet he has the audacity to go to them with professions of love on his lips. This wooing is comparable only to the wooing of the Lady Anne by Gloucester in presence of the corpse of the murdered Henry. One can almost imagine Mr. Greenway soliloquizing in the very words of Crookback Richard:

"I have her but I will not keep her long!
What! I that killed her husband and his father.
To take her in her heart's extremest hate,
With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes
The bleeding witnesses of her hatred by;
Having God, her conscience, and these bars against me,
And I nothing to back my suit at all
But the plain devil, and dissembling looks
And yet to win her, all the world to nothing!
Ha! hath she forgot already that brave prince
Edward, her lord, whom I some three months since,
Stabbed in my angry mood at Tewksbury?
And will she yet bebase her eyes on me.
That cropped the golden prime of this sweet prince
And made her widow to a woeful bed?"

The Lady Anne yielded weakly to the flatteries of Richard; and miserably afterwards did she repent her folly. So will it be with St. Boniface should she allow herself to fall a victim to the cajoleries of her enemy. St. Boniface, however, will scarcely be so pliant. Mr. Greenway is more like to encounter from her the scornful indignation of a Margaret of Anjou, than the yielding protestations of a Lady Anne.

First Pig—"And they'll cut us up for pork and use our skins to make footballs."

Second Pig—"Well, if they ever make a football out of my skin, I'll be glad I'm not in it."—Puck.