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NEWCASTLE, N. B., SEPTEMBER 27, 1911

THE RESULTS

The general election of the 21st instant was a crushing defeat for the Liberal party which, under the skillful leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier had held power for more than fifteen years. Choosing to go before the people in a general election and thus risk their political life on one throw rather than submit the Navy and Reciprocity questions to a plebiscite or referendum, the Cabinet have been required to private life, not only Reciprocity but the government itself being overwhelmed by the popular verdict.

The latest returns—which by official declaration, protests and recounts may be substantially changed—give, with four elections yet to be held the following figures:

Table with 2 columns: Party Name, Votes. Conservatives 115, Liberals 84, Nationalists 17, Laborite 1.

This gives the Conservatives and Nationalists combined a majority of 47 over the Liberal and Labor forces combined, and should the Nationalists at any time and for any reason desert the new Premier the Conservatives would have without them a clear majority of thirteen thus rendering the Conservatives absolutely independent for the life of this parliament at least of all other parties together.

Table with 2 columns: Party Name, Votes. Liberals 130, Conservatives 88, Nationalist 1, Laborite 1, Independent 1.

So it appears that the Conservatives have made not counting the Nationalists a gain of 27 seats a very substantial showing.

A FATAL MISTAKE

A fatal mistake of the Liberal Party of Canada was its rejection of the principal of the Referendum urged upon it by Mr. F. D. Monk in the case of the Naval question and by Mr. R. L. Borden in the matter of Reciprocity in natural products with the United States.

When Mr. Monk demanded a vote of the whole people on the question whether or not Canada wanted a navy, he was right. The building of a navy was a new and radical departure not discussed or considered at the previous general election, and the parliament elected upon other issues had no right to decide it offhand without consulting the people.

When Mr. Borden demanded a referendum on the question of Reciprocity—a question which had not been a live issue at the election of 1908 or indeed, for many years prior to that date—Mr. Borden was right. The people vitally interested should have been given the opportunity to pronounce upon the question directly and alone without the confusing entanglements of a general election.

When the Australian parliament, in one house of which the Labor Party have about 44 members in a total of 75 and 21 of the 36 Senators, passed in 1910 two bills radically changing the constitution of the country one bill to greatly increase the power of the national parliament at the expense of the legislatures of the individual states; the other to empower the central parliament to nationalize any industry or business that might become monopolized by private enterprise it did not force them upon the country as it would have done had it followed the practice in most other countries, but it submitted both measures to a direct vote of the people. The referendum taken early in 1911 resulted in a vote of about 60 per cent in favor of the Government's opponents in State

Socialism and 60 per cent opposed. The measures were, therefore, in obedience to the will of the electors, dropped; but the Government did not have to resign office. It had done no wrong. The will of the people was not in any way thwarted, and no one clamored for the Government's overthrow because of its having proposed the defeated measures.

Had the Laurier administration been as wise as the Fisher government in Australia, Canada would have had a referendum on the Naval and Reciprocity questions instead of a general election. Whichever way the vote had gone, the Government could have kept the reins of power till late in 1913, when it could have gone to the people on new issues, the questions settled by the referendum not re-appearing for discussion. The Liberals have only themselves to blame for their decisive defeat. They made the Reciprocity question the subject of a general election instead of a referendum, and the people having no way to defeat Reciprocity without defeating the Government at the same time did not hesitate an instant in sweeping the Government out of the way along with Reciprocity. So let it be in the future with any Government that attempts to force its measures upon an unwilling people.

ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME

In the rejection by Canada of the Reciprocity pact the United States is reaping the fruit of her high-handed acts of aggression in the past. Early last century United States people obtained permission to settle in Texas, then a territory of Mexico.

Soon after, in 1836, new settlers rebelled, drove out the Mexican force and established their independence, uniting the new republic in 1845 with the United States. This brought on a war with Mexico in which the latter country was defeated and forced to surrender to the victor not only Texas but the whole of California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and parts of Colorado and Arizona—over one-half the Mexican dominions.

A few United States adventurers settled in Hawaii suddenly rose in rebellion, seized the government, and shortly afterward annexed the country to the United States.

In 1898, without any just cause the United States made war upon Spain; seized, annexed and made a subject territory of Porto Rico, whose people had not asked for assistance, drove the Spaniards out of Cuba, taking two strategic points in that island and converting the whole into a dependency in all but name; and, going into the Philippines as an ally, bought the archipelago from Spain and reconquered the Natives who had just without foreign help, practically achieved their independence.

In 1905, when Colombia proved tardy in coming to the United States' terms re the Panama canal, the United States incited Panama to rebel against Colombia, and then in defiance of international law, stepped in and forbade Colombia to land troops to reassert her authority on the Isthmus. Panama sold the canal zone and became a dependency of the big republic.

It was doubtless a fear that the United States was seeking the best of the bargain, a fear engendered by a knowledge of her dealings with weaker peoples, coupled with resentment for the many rebuffs Canadian governments had received in the past while seeking freer trade with her, that made many Canadian voters this year decide to have nothing whatever to do with any proposals of Reciprocity

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coming from our powerful neighbor. The Southerners have only themselves to blame for the miscarriage of their recent overtures. We hope they will profit by the experience, and henceforth, in dealing with all nations, show a more kindly and liberal spirit.

PROSECUTE ALL WRONGDOERS

There are many allegations of wrongdoing at the Polls in the recent elections. All such charges should be thoroughly investigated and the culprits, whether Conservative, Liberal, Nationalist, Socialist or Laborite, punished to the full extent of the law. No criminal is viler or more dangerous than he who deliberately interferes with the purity and freedom of the ballot.

NEW BRUNSWICK ALL RIGHT

The magnificent display of roots, vegetables, grains, cattle, sheep, etc., at the Chatham and Fredericton Exhibitions show that the country could exist very nicely even if the lumber industry were destroyed. Intensive farming and careful breeding of stock will make this province as rich a country as Denmark.

WHERE THE CREDIT BELONGS

In editorially discussing the Liberal defeat of the 21st instant, the last issue of the Eastern Labor News of Moncton, the ably-edited organ of the Labor Unions of the Maritime Provinces, says:

"Among the surprises of the campaign was the greatly reduced majority of of the government candidate in Westmorland county and in Moncton city the location of the shops of the I. C. Railway. The result especially in the city goes to show that the representative of the party in power got very little credit for the increases recently granted; the fact being that such increases were obtained by the unions from the managing board by sheer force, and only through perfect organization and a fight to the finish. The independent spirit which has been shown by the organized men should serve as a notice to any party that the men can no longer be used for political purposes and that the heeler, no matter how zealous in the cause, cannot count upon them in one way or another. It is a refreshing sign of the times, and goes to show that only through organization can anything hope to be accomplished by the workers. Mr. Beauregard has stood firmly for labor measures in the past, and Mr. Siddall who will be the representative of the new government, promises to continue the good work which in fact, has pleased himself to push for an eight-hour day for government employees."

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

H. H. Stuart of Douglastown, who spoke, in part, as follows, on the Course of Instruction and School and Factory Laws:

Most of the workers of New Brunswick are comparatively unskilled. They, therefore, while able to produce less, and compelled to accept less for their work, have to work harder than the more adept. The reason lies not in any lack of ability but in the fact that they have not been efficiently taught while young.

Germany has advanced more rapidly the last forty years mainly because her people are more scientific than we in their methods of education. The German child is educated not only along speculative and theoretical lines but in a way that will help him to become a highly efficient producer of wealth.

Nature Study and Agriculture, while nominally obligatory in our schools, is practically optional, as no great care has to date been taken to insure that such instruction shall be made effective. And Manual Training is still optional with the trustees of each district and operative in very few.

In our schools the effective teaching of Agriculture, experimentally by school gardening as well as in theory should, as in France be compulsory, while Manual Training should be a feature of every school.

All pupils should have exactly the same educational advantages, all exemptions from attendance at school, except for sickness, to be abolished; for why should the children of the poor be deprived of an education and sent out into the industrial world handicapped for life and condemned to a lower station than any of their companions?

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY is the WATCHWORD of TRUE DEMOCRACY. No child should be allowed to lose his education because of his parents' poverty, or his or their stubbornness, foolishness or neglect.

This province is supposed to have a Factory Law, which forbids the employment in factories of children under a certain age or until they have passed a certain grade in the public schools. But this apparently beneficent statute is practically nullified by the clause that allows children of school age and who have not passed the required grade to be employed in factories if their parents or guardians are financially in need of their help.

Why should the child whose father is dead or disabled be for that reason condemned to lose his education and be relegated to a lower status in the social and industrial life of the community? It is the duty of the public to provide the same education for the children of the poor and unfortunate as for others and see that the physical needs of such citizens are satisfied without the sacrifice of their children's birthright. The greed of the factory owner who fattens on the profits of child labor must not any longer be allowed to interfere with the freedom and progress of the country.

All the schools of the province should be equally good. The child who lives in a back district should have a right to a first class education as the resident of a town. Small districts should be consolidated, thus bringing the advantages of the graded school within reach of every boy and girl. Local and third class licenses should be abolished. If a teacher of advanced license is necessary for some pupils, such a teacher is necessary to all.

Such reforms in our educational system would take money. Schools cannot be consolidated, agricultural and manual instruction cannot be made effective and general, good teachers cannot be universally employed, without money; but money is easily found by both provincial and municipal governments for purposes far less important than education.

Teachers should revive their Union. They should get rid of the idea that they constitute a specially select and superior class and recognize that they belong to the brotherhood of working men and working women, co-operating with each other and with other workers for the benefit of education and their own order, as the teachers of France, England, Chicago, and other places are doing.

The resolutions passed by this Institute last year had had no visible effect upon either the Provincial Government or Opponents.

(Continued on page 8.)

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