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The Vacant Senatorship.

Premier Borden is expected to start on his homeward voyage from England on the 30th of this month and, all being well, will arrive in Ottawa early in September.

Hon. Mr. Foster, who had been in the Old Country on business appertaining to his own department, arrived home some time ago, and other Cabinet Ministers absent from the capital for some time are returning from day to day.

Hon. Messrs. Doherty, Hazen and Pelletier, who accompanied the Prime Minister, have already reached Ottawa, at least some of them. It may be fairly assumed that a very considerable amount of important public business awaits the return of the Cabinet Ministers, and that they are likely to have a busy enough time from now until the opening of the Parliamentary session.

Among other matters likely to engage the attention of the Premier in the near future is the filling of Senate vacancies, and this brings up the vacant Senatorship for this Province. We have referred to this question once or twice before; but, lest we forget, it may not be out of place to reiterate in brief the salient features of the case.

The first requisite in a Senatorial candidate should be, we imagine, ability sufficient to fill the position with reasonable credit. Character, ability and party claims admitted, then the special circumstances of each case should receive attention. In this case the Senatorship belongs to Queen's County; all precedents emphasize this fact, as all Senators for Queen's County have been residents thereof.

The religious phase of the question also demands consideration. Since this Province entered Confederation, the Island Catholics have been represented in the Senate. We have always had one Catholic, and for a considerable part of the time two. As the Catholics constitute about one half of the population, they would not be over represented had we two of that religion in the Senate. At any rate, as the late Senator McDonald was a Catholic and the other three Senators from the Island are Protestants, we can scarcely conceive that any reasonable man would favor the appointment of a fourth Protestant and the total disfranchisement of the Catholics. We certainly believe that Premier Borden would never entertain such a proposition.

We sometimes hear it said that men who have been members of the House of Commons are the most eligible for Senatorships. That is all moonshine; the previous occupation of a seat in the Commons does not necessarily bar a man from a Senatorship; but it certainly does not constitute a qualification for the position. Only two of all the Senators from this Province were previously in the House of Commons. Some people say that lawyers should not be made Senators; that they can aspire to the bench and to many other positions of emolument unattainable by laymen. We would not say that being a lawyer disqualifies a man for the position of Senator; but it is not an unreasonable contention that, as other positions of honor and emolument are open to them from which laymen are shut

out, they might well hold back. Only one of all the Senators from this Province was a lawyer.

Recapitulating the points touched upon above, we think it will be apparent to all reasonable, fair minded men that the present Senate vacancy for this Province should be filled by a Catholic resident of Queen's County; qualified by character and ability, and who has rendered good service to the Conservative party. Such an appointment would, in our opinion, be popular and satisfactory to all reasonable, justice loving people.

Judging from the way they are talking down in St. John, it will soon be on the cards to exclaim: "Go East, young man, and grow up with the country."—Victoria Colonist.

It is good news that the apple crop promises to be a bumper. Some one said recently that eating apples makes for beauty. Canadian girls should lead the world if it depends on the quality of the apple.—London Advertiser.

The Liberal newspapers which shout from the housetops "by all means let us get this naval question out of party politics," are losing no opportunity to stir up enmity to the Government. Who is making it a party question but these same party journals?—London Free Press.

It is reported that some women suffragettes are preparing to give Winston Churchill a warm reception when he reaches Montreal. The militant ones should be very careful. The new jail is not ready yet, and the old one is decidedly unpleasant.—Montreal Gazette.

The market for farm labor is rising in the West. Farmers in Saskatchewan are bidding as high as \$50 a month, with board. It is expected that still larger wages will have to be paid, and this for several months. But to be worthy of his hire, the laborer will have to live a strenuous life and fare not too sumptuously every day.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The exemption of tolls is only a grain of sand in the nation's commerce. The offset will be commercial war in the world's markets. There will be a cabal of tariffs against us. The world will despise us, and will have reason, in the opinion of many of ourselves. Not in years will we cease to regret our course, whether it be right or wrong, for we assume to be judges in our own case and expect others to accept our judgments. And this for thirty pieces of silver. We shall be doubly dishonored if we decline to arbitrate.—New York Times.

The decision of the U. S. Congress to give American coastwise shipping free passage through the Panama Canal is not likely to prove popular in the States which border on the great lakes. Already the complaint is being made that the arrangement is unfair to these States and to the fresh water cities. "It will draw trade from the centre of the country to its borders," says the Chicago Tribune; "traffic that would go through Chicago will pass through Panama." It would not be strange if a strong moral agitation were to spring up in the Western States against the violation of the Hay Pauncefote treaty.—Hamilton Herald.

If George Brown of the Toronto Globe were living today he would be ready to repeat his transcendent patriotism of half a century ago,

and strike hands with some new Sir John Macdonald for a confederation of the self-governing Dominions within the British Empire the world over.—Hamilton Spectator.

Every true Canadian, be he Liberal or Conservative, should be patriotic enough to put country before party, and uphold any means by which the backbone of the British possessions—the Navy—may be strengthened for the general welfare and security of the Empire.—St. Thomas Times.

London, Ontario, has raised the price of ice cream soda from five cents to ten. One way and another London seems bound to furnish evidence that she is a big city.—Toronto Star.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier plans to sit on the fence and await developments in the naval question. Still the opportunist, as ever.—London Free Press.

The Campaign for Imperial Preference.

A mild and inoffensive paragraph in a letter sent out by the London Committee in charge of the Chamberlain Birthday Fund has roused the ire of the Telegraph, because in a reference to Mr. Chamberlain's policy of Imperial Preference a slight allusion is made to the fact that his policy was justified in the result of the Canadian elections last September. The Telegraph takes the opportunity to hold another inquest over the dead bones of Reciprocity, to resurrect a few of the old and discredited arguments which, as the result proved, had no weight with the Canadian electorate, and concludes by declaring that it is "shameful" that the Liberal party, which instituted and increased the British Preference, "should now be misrepresented in Great Britain by its own representatives and their political allies among the English Tories."

In the general election campaign of last year one of the strongest and most convincing arguments which conducted to the defeat of the Liberal party's policy was based on the contention that Reciprocity with the United States would practically destroy Imperial Preference. It was an argument which was never answered, for the all-sufficient reason that the Laurier Government in their eagerness for free trade with a foreign country had ignored the effect this policy would have on the Canadian tariff throughout the Empire and with other nations.

When the Agreement came to be considered it was discovered that the arrangement would apply not only to the United States but to the whole of the British Empire, and to twelve other countries—Argentina, Austro-Hungary, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland, Spain, Japan, Columbia, Bolivia and Venezuela. In 1909 six of these countries exported \$512,000,000 worth of butter, cheese, eggs, animals, grain, vegetables, fruits, hay, etc. Australia, British India and New Zealand, whose agricultural products would also have come in under the Agreement, exported \$140,000,000 of these products. Canada was to pay a price which the United States was not required to pay. That price was the admission to the Canadian market of the agricultural and natural products of these twelve nations and of all British possessions. By the adoption of Reciprocity the hope of Imperial Preference would have been destroyed. There would have been no tariff left in natural products on which to base a preference.

There was no effective answer to this argument. If any further proof were needed it is to be found in the subsequent action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the Imperial Conference in May last year. On his motion a resolution was adopted asking the British Government to abrogate the treaties with the twelve favored nations. The resolution was as follows:

"That His Majesty's Government be requested to open negotiations with the several foreign Governments having treaties which apply to the Overseas Dominions with a view to securing liberty for any of those Dominions, which may so desire, to withdraw from the operation of the Treaty without impairing the Treaty in respect of the rest of the Empire."

A more candid admission of the entanglement in which the Laurier Government found themselves could not have been made. Sir Edward Grey held out little hope at the Conference that the twelve nations would consent to the terms of the resolution. His view of the situation appears to have been justified. At the beginning of 1912 it was announced that only one of the countries had consented to reopen these arrangements.

In the light of these facts the Telegraph has no cause for complaint because the London Committee of the Chamberlain Birthday Fund acknowledge that the Canadian elections gave support to Mr. Chamberlain's policy of Imperial Preference. In the general election the people of Canada, in repudiating the Agreement, condemned the policy of the Liberal Government and endorsed the policies of Mr. Borden and Mr. Chamberlain for closer trade relations within the Empire. The Telegraph may parade the fact that the Liberal party instituted the British Preference, but the equally important fact that in Reciprocity with the United States a death blow would have been struck at Imperial Preference must not be overlooked.—St. John Standard.

Chinese Politics.

Chinese politics, under the new order of things, appear to be in rather a chaotic condition. With the first genuine elections in all Chinese history almost upon them the voters are not facing a clear alignment of parties. The most widely known, if not the most widely spread of these, according to the Shanghai Celestial Empire, is the Tung Ming Hui, whose platform is Socialistic. It has not hitherto been a purely political party, but is now proposing to become so, and to signalize the change by altering its name. Another party organization is reported to have declared for a non-partisan Cabinet. This apparently high-minded policy is interpreted as being a sign that this party realizes that it cannot secure all the offices for itself. Five other groups are about to amalgamate. No one however seems to be sure of the platform of any of these three great parties except that of the first.

The danger in the coming election is that the credulous and inexperienced voter will accept pronouncements at their face value. The Chinese are still under the spell of the printed page. The party that conducts a well organized campaign, therefore, will have an excellent chance of winning with any platform whatever. In all these matters, nevertheless, the difference between East and West looks exceedingly like one of degree merely. The great step has been taken in substituting the ballot for the more direct method of assaulting an unpopular official and burning his house.—St. John Standard.

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SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon, on Friday, the 4th October, 1912, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week each way, between
Mount Ryan and Mount Ryan (Circular Route, Rural Delivery) from the Postmaster General's pleasure. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Mount Ryan, Fort Angoulesme and other offices, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector. Charlottetown, Aug. 22, 1912. August 28, 1912—31



Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon, on Friday, the 27th September, 1912, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week each way, between
Mill View and Vernon River Bridge (Special Circular Rural Route) from the Postmaster General's pleasure. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Mill View, Vernon River Bridge, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector. Charlottetown, Aug. 22, 1912. August 28, 1912—31