

The Wayside Philosopher

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

We welcome the conviction and proper punishment of some of those who have been guilty of major crimes in British Columbia. There was great need for this. The good work must not, however, cease. Respect for the Law is still wanting in many quarters in British Columbia. Until the majesty of the Law is re-asserted, conditions cannot be what they should be. Meanwhile to all who have aided in the improvement, police, juries, counsel, judges, deep and lasting thanks are due.

A SATISFACTORY ELECTION

In all our experience we have never seen so satisfactory an election as the recent Dominion election. The Liberal party express satisfaction at being still in control of the House of Commons. The Conservatives rejoice in the wonderful victory they claim to have won. The Progressives are satisfied to have justified their existence and proved (to themselves anyway) that they are and will be a national power. The defeated candidates are satisfied their constituencies were mistaken in rejecting them. The elected candidates are satisfied that the nation will be wisely guided by them. The people as a whole are satisfied that the election is over. There are some who are not satisfied with the indecisiveness of the final result. However you cannot please everybody.

SOME ELECTION THOUGHTS

While control of the House has not been placed beyond question, there are some quite interesting facts to be noted.

First, it is undoubted that in tariff matters Canadians have again endorsed moderate but adequate protection. Apart altogether from the 117 Conservatives who were elected on that distinct platform, we have the Laborites supporting that policy solely on account of its reflex action on employment and wages. On the Liberal side we have several elected on a protectionist platform; and others have for years supported Laurier and other Liberal leaders in that policy.

Next, we have the clearly proven fact that the Prairie Provinces as a whole favor free trade and a progressive policy. While the Liberals made large gains from the Progressives there, nothing indicates any permanent trend from Progressive to Liberal ideas. Circumstances were against the former, and a temporary loss was sustained by them.

Again, we have Protectionist Quebec practically a unit in supporting King. This would be an anomaly if King's cabinet representatives in Quebec had not included Marler, a high protectionist, Lemieux, Lapointe and Robb, supporters of Laurier's fiscal programme, as well as Bureau, Cardin and Boivin, who were apparently in hearty accord with King's freer trade policy, with its slogan of "reducing the costs of production."

It is unfortunate that some, even highly placed in political power, are seeking to arouse antagonisms by "playing off," so to speak, Ontario against Quebec and vice versa. Others seek to find a clerical basis in Quebec's decision, a most regrettable thing. A solid Quebec behind King will be a good thing if it is not made the basis of appeals to prejudice and racial and religious dislike.

A new election ere long is a foregone conclusion. Meighen's success in that election is equally certain. Twelve seats gained over his last effort and the Con-

servative government will have a working majority over all. P.E.I., N.B., and N.S. will furnish at least three of these. B. C. will probably add one if not two to her Conservative representation; while a solid B.C. for Meighen will be quite realizable. Alberta with proper election methods preventing theft, such as the Peace River seat, should add two more to the list. Saskatchewan should, at least, contribute two to the quota. Manitoba will furnish another one, leaving Ontario to supply but three.

Then, with a Minister of Justice and a Postmaster General who are not Catholics, we can break loose from the tradition of the past in both parties, that these posts should be held by men of that faith, and the future of Canadian national policy changed in the best interest of all without raising any racial or religious issue. Quebec will still have her necessarily immense political power exerted on a proper basis, and ere long the most prejudiced will have to admit that divisions then occurring will be divisions of policy divorced from racial or religious bias.

WHAT IS MY RELIGION?

Under this caption the "Vancouver Star" has been publishing on Saturdays of each week, articles from persons of rank and note.

A recent issue contained an article by Rebecca West which was quite as interesting as former contributions.

It is not our purpose to debate or discuss another's religious views. However mistaken they may seem to us in their conception of what religion is, or however apparently open to attack by way of historical, scientific or Biblical criticism, our plain duty is to respect those convictions as we should ask our own to be respected, and to remember that they are given not to raise debate or discussion, but we believe with a sincere desire to help others in their religious difficulties.

We noted in Miss West's article her disbelief in the Virgin Birth of the Saviour, and the reason accepted by her for its appearance in the Bible and Christian teaching. We do not propose to discuss the subject, though we are in no agreement with her whatever. We only wonder if any of our readers agree with her in either of her conclusions on this subject. Later we shall have something to say on this subject but not by way of debate or criticism of Mrs. West.

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A CHILD'S SONG.

(By Nancy Chapman, aged 12.)

I've seen a pixie sitting in a wood
With a little brown jerkin and a bright red hood,
A dear little fellow with a big grey beard,
Who told me the strangest tales ever I heard
Of witches and dragons and ships that sailed the sea
From Florida to Cape Town, then to the Zuider Zee.

(Chorus):

Come and I'll whisper a secret to you,
I know where the pixies live, yes, I do.

I found a little pixie perched upon a stone
Who held his little forehead thus, and gave a little moan.

I cried, "Dear Pixie, don't carry on so."
He said, "My child, I've had a very bad blow,
I've found that cocks don't sing like larks, because they
only crow." (Chorus)