

THE LOCAL CONTEXT.

It would be absurd to afflict indifference to the defeat of Thursday last; still it may not be amiss to dispel some of the mists which the victorious party is trying to enshroud it. The first feature in the struggle which must strike a disinterested onlooker is the marked dissociation of Dominion and local issues. The four parties which were purely local in their aims, have been ground for supposing that the Mowat Government, which was so strong four years ago, had succumbed to the reflex action of the wave which carried Sir JOHN MACDONALD to power last September. As it is, the triumph of Mr. MOWAT proves nothing as regards the National Policy, except the pronounced decision of the electors that no Dominion question should influence the local issue. It is a fact that the Opposition leaders entertained a different view. They thought, and still think, that the interests of Ontario would be best served by the establishment of harmony between the Ottawa and Toronto Administrations. The people, however, have shown that they are not to be misled by organs, in protesting against any such connection, and it becomes us, therefore, to show to their decision. Of course, as we predicted some days ago, the cry of reaction against the Dominion Government is raised now; but the attitude of the Ministerial party throughout, until they fancied the game was turned out successful from a party point of view; but we all know what disastrous consequences followed them, and into what a straits they are lengthily wading the old Province of Canada. Mr. MOWAT made no attempt to fight prejudice with prejudice. Had Mr. MOWAT been as candid as his provincial opponent, he would have admitted that the Ontario party took them at their word, believed them to be earnest when they disclaimed any idea of making the National Policy an issue at the polls, and approved of the view they took of the matter. What view Conservative speakers or journals denounce as the "Globe" policy, is now the "Globe" question; it is quite sufficient that the Ontario party, united in deprecating any admixture of Dominion with Provincial questions. Upon that platform they were successful, and they have been successful. Further than that, their triumph cannot be construed, so far as last September is concerned, as a victory over the Ministry. Until within the last three weeks, the Toronto organ has vehemently, and sometimes fiercely, protested against the imposition of the National Policy into the contest. When a supporter of Sir JOHN MACDONALD and of the tariff consented to nominate Mr. Mowat, the Globe began to play the game which has turned out to be successful. It could not see why supporters of the National Policy should not sustain Mr. Mowat. There could be no inconsistency in doing so, since the Ontario Cabinet ought to be judged on its own merits, and without reference to fiscal questions with which Ministers had no concern. Mr. BLAKE and all the members of the Ontario Government, wherever and whenever they spoke, boldly asserted the election as neutral as regards the National Policy was in question; these utterances are down in black and white; and it is too late to raise an anti-tariff partisan now. The issue was deliberately refused by the Ministerial party; they went to the country on the strength of that refusal, and the Ontario party, on their side on that pretext, and were supported in their cause by the Province. It is surely the height of absurdity to pretend that the Ontario party that electors have given evidence of a change of opinion upon the fiscal question, when in fact they have only sustained a Ministry which distinctly refused to pronounce any judgment upon it one way or the other. The very issue of the election is the best possible evidence that the Ontario party had nothing to do with it. It is certain that the new under the sun is found as asserted that a policy has been condemned at the polls. The Ontario party has triumphed which solemnly refused to pronounce upon the question. Such, however, as we anticipated, is the slippery and precarious ground upon which the Ministerial party now stands.

The substantial reasons for our defeat on Thursday are not far to seek. It must be confessed, although that consideration is not to be made a pretext, that the Opposition was placed at some disadvantage for want of completed organization. The Ontario party, however, were simultaneously weakened the party, and the necessity of "swapping horses" when crossing a stream" was there, as the Ontario party, in their present position, only made because it had to be made. Under more propitious circumstances we are confident that the Ontario party would have summarily ejected the Ministry from office. It was simply the misfortune of the Liberal-Conservative position, that the party was compelled to enter the contest, in a more or less provisional state of arrangement. But the real cause of Mr. MOWAT's success was his possession of the purse-strings and his unlimited promise of squandering. Mr. MOWAT stood forward as the champion of economy and thrift. Mr. MOWAT held the money-bags, and could claim the gratitude of the Nation for having spent a million there, and tempt East-End Toronto with the promise of a million in Government buildings, and yet pose as a Christian politician throughout. Bribery of a Province with its own money is not an offence, it would appear, against Christian morality. The surplus was, in fact, the grand key which extricated Mr. Mowat from his perplexities, and put Humpty-Dumpty where he was before, as bland and naive, but as weak and incompetent as ever. Reference is made elsewhere to the peculiar disposition of the Catholic voters as manifested on Thursday; and we need only refer to the marshalling of that portion of the population to confirm the worst allegations of a sectarian compact, whose outward and visible sign is Mr. FRASER.

A telling argument in the elections in the West, and probably a great factor in the result, was the statement that wages had been reduced ten and fifteen per cent. on the Canada Southern railway. Of course, the National Policy got the credit of the reduction, but very unfairly. It was owing entirely to the ruinous rates at which freight is being carried eastward in competition with the other lines having connections between the west and the Atlantic seaboard. As a sample it may be

THE NATIONAL POLICY IN ONTARIO.

Shortly before the Local elections the question was put whether the National Policy was or was not an issue at the polls. The vehemence with which all the Ministers, Mr. BLAKE and the journalists, reproached the introduction of the question would have been decisive, but for the startling new departure made by the chief organ at the last moment. After striving with all the might of desperation to prove the irrelevance of any reference to the tariff, it suddenly began to trim its sails in a different direction. If it had gambled about a "reaction" only a fortnight since, Mr. MOWAT would have had but a slender majority, if he secured one at all. But finding that the terms had taken, and the electors had been won over to the view that Mr. MOWAT and his Ministry were neutral, the other side of the shield, not to disperse and displease them.

After the election, even the Globe returns to its first view. Mr. MOWAT is not about to throw a stone on Sir L. TILLY's track; he would not if he could, and he would not if he could. "Nothing," says the organ, "ought to satisfy either protectionists or free-traders but a fair trial of this nostrum for personal distress and national hardship." Without pausing to notice anything so familiar as the travesty of the National Policy here, one is tempted to ask why, in the name of Heaven, Mr. FRASER's appeal to the passions of his co-religionists, his semi-official utterances with regard to the attitude of the Catholic hierarchy, his speeches against the Orange, his references to certain members of the Opposition, were eminently successful. His co-religionists responded nobly, and at least an equal number of votes for the Administration candidates. And not only that, but they were so inflamed by the hon. gentleman's harangues that the Ontario party, in the Ontario Government is in jeopardy. The other day, when it was an object to represent the election of Sir JOHN MACDONALD's Administration as precarious, there was a relative calm held by the Ontario party. It means that the Ontario party, in the Ontario Government is in jeopardy. The other day, when it was an object to represent the election of Sir JOHN MACDONALD's Administration as precarious, there was a relative calm held by the Ontario party. It means that the Ontario party, in the Ontario Government is in jeopardy.

THE SECRETARIAN ISSUE IN POLITICS.

One of the primary causes of the defeat of the Opposition on Thursday was the sectarian issue which Mr. FRASER introduced into the contest. For some months before the campaign opened, the issue of the National Policy was the only issue which was discussed in the public mind. But the Opposition leaders, in their desire to secure a victory, introduced a new issue, the "Secretarian Issue." This issue was introduced by Mr. FRASER in his speech at the Ontario Convention, when he attacked the Ministry for having introduced the National Policy without consulting the Ontario Legislature. This issue was introduced by Mr. FRASER in his speech at the Ontario Convention, when he attacked the Ministry for having introduced the National Policy without consulting the Ontario Legislature.

REDUCTION OF RENT IN ENGLAND.

A distinguished economist writes, in an article in a periodical, lately published, that the depression which afflicted the world was not so much arising from over production as from over consumption. He advocated warmly a cessation of luxurious expenditure as the best means of getting back to specie payments all round, and to prosperity once more. His advice is practically being forced on the landed gentry of England. In every paper we notice items to the effect that landlords are forced to remit a large percentage of the rents of their estates. Practically a general fall in rents has taken place. This means that real estate, in the country where for its limited quantity, real estate has been most valuable, has become worth less than it was some time back. Agriculture in a country where agriculture supports the poorest and richest aristocracy is becoming poorer and poorer. The result is that the poor who have been called "scissors," it means that the Ontario party, in the Ontario Government is in jeopardy.

IMPERIAL HONOURS.

The recent creation of Knights of the Order of St. Michael and St. George extends greatly the area of colonial knighthood. It includes representatives from Malta, Victoria, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, the Mauritius, New South Wales, and the Leeward Islands, Barbados, Natal and Canada. The services for which the honours were conferred cover a wide field of honourable accomplishment, and include finance, statesmanship, law, military, engineering, civil engineering, public works, direction of exhibitions, diplomacy and scientific authorship. So general a recognition of merit among colonialists and those whose services are rendered in colonies can spring but from the settled policy of a new era, in which the Colonies assume a new importance, and afford a new field for honourable distinction. This result cannot be otherwise than gratifying to all those who have maintained the wisdom and necessity of the policy of the Home Government, and who have seen the connection between the Colonies and the Mother Land. And this result cannot be otherwise than gratifying to all those who have maintained the wisdom and necessity of the policy of the Home Government, and who have seen the connection between the Colonies and the Mother Land.

SMALL MAJORITIES.

Nine months ago our Reform contemporaries filled many a pleasant column in discussing the what-might-have-beens, and now, by the fortune of war, it is our turn. The smallness of the Government majorities in many constituencies is perhaps the most striking feature in this remarkable contest. Take the following ridings:

Cardwell	27
West Eglon	27
South Lanark	30
Lincoln	10
West Northumberland	14
Prince Edward	28
Russell	28
North Victoria	8
West York	28
South Bruce	28
Hamilton	61
St. Catharines	24
Haldimand	65

So that if 268 voters had voted the other way, and supposing them to have been distributed their votes properly, the Government would have had at least four seats. Or, if 506 Conservatives had gone to the polls instead

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

It is the Globe prepared to adhere to its statement of the 18th September that the farmers are "dupes and fools!" The organ, and they ought to know, say Mr. James Young will be taken into the Cabinet with Mr. Wood, the Treasurer, who will be placed in some comfortable office. Mr. Young was for some years chairman of the Public Accounts Committee at Ottawa, and is reported to have a taste for finance.

The Halifax Herald learns on good authority that the double between the London and the Montreal and the Intercolonial railway has been satisfactorily settled, and that the threatened closing of the works will not take place. This is an article of news which the thoroughly patriotic free trade press will not publish.

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