

London Advertiser.
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Editorial Department 134
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London, Monday, October 24.
The Conservative Standard-Bearer.

Dr. Montague has considered discretion the better part of valor. He was doubtless sincere when he thanked the Conservative members on Saturday night for the nomination. Their tearful entreaties would have tickled any man's self-esteem and touched his sympathies. In the goodness of his heart he tried to let them down as easily as possible by greasing the occasion with a speech. But even the oily eloquence of the doctor could not conceal the jolting of the machine. His growing girth and his private affairs are the reasons he gives for his refusal; but he might have overcome these scruples had his party friends set him an easier task.

The crown of martyrdom has been passed on to Mr. William Gray. Mr. Gray has cut a considerable figure in local politics and has been credited for some time with the ambition to employ his talents on a wider stage. He might have wished to be launched on the sea of public life when the winds were more favoring; but if he decides to take the plunge no one will deny him courage and a strong spirit of party loyalty. It is not every man who would accept a nomination which has been refused by a dozen of his fellow-citizens and hawked around the country.

Essery Redivivus.

The present campaign has been marked by the recrudescence of Mr. Essery. We can easily understand the calls for that gentleman at Saturday night's meeting. The audience wanted a "bracer." Under chilly and comfortless conditions, it yearned for hot stuff; and Mr. Essery may always be relied upon to supply it. His speeches may be lacking in bread and meat, but they have always plenty of pepper and mustard. Who but Mr. Essery could have evolved that delicious bit of drollery about Hon. Sydney Fisher shoving Grit monkeys into uniforms? It is this sparkle and effervescence that make Mr. Essery such a platform favorite with Conservative audiences. Since a certain event in '94 some of the Conservative members have tried to induce Mr. Essery to stay in the background; but there is no keeping a good man down. He comes high, but Conservative audiences must have him. Now that he is in the middle of the stage again the campaign will not be dull, whatever it loses in dignity.

Mr. Essery accuses the Advertiser of "sitting on added eggs." We don't think the Conservative members have entirely deserved this. If they have been a little added by recent developments who can blame them? We don't propose to sit on them too hard. They have troubles enough already.

The Attacks on Senator Coffey.

Some unusual things were said at Saturday night's Conservative meeting; but nothing was more surprising than Major Beattie's attack upon Senator Coffey for appearing upon Sir Hyman's platform. When did it become a principle or practice in Canadian public life that elevation to the Senate is a gag? Certainly not under Conservative rule. Some of the foremost campaigners and stump speakers under the old regime—the late Senator Plumb, to mention only one—were members of the Upper House. Only the other day—at Pictou—Sir Mackenzie Bowell spoke from the same platform as Mr. Borden. We have never before heard the theory advanced that a member of a legislative body has no right to discuss in public the public question with which he has to deal. The proposition is so absurd that it refutes itself. If the Major has no better ammunition than this he ought to stick to duck-shooting.

The Free Press today also opens fire on Senator Coffey. The Senator should feel complimented by the attention showered on him by the opposite party. He must have made them wince.

Sir Wilfrid's Ontario Tour.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Saturday finished his Ontario tour. It is within bounds to say that no political leader in the history of Canada has made so triumphal a progress through this Province, not even Sir John Macdonald in his palmy days. No building in which he spoke could hold the numbers that flocked to hear him. At every stopping place he received a homage which no other statesman in this country, living or dead, has awakened in the same degree. There was an element of personal affection in these tributes which character, and character alone, could inspire. Sir Wilfrid is unique in his possession of the goodwill of his political opponents. Happy the public man who can touch the hearts and enthusiasm of his friends and the admiration and respect of his adversaries.

Sir Wilfrid's reception in Ontario is an earnest of what Ontario intends doing for him next week. There will be no Conservative sweep of the Province this time. The campaign, except in a few localities, is being fought out on broad, public questions, not on the wretched side-issues, which were dragged into the last election by sectarian firebrands.

The Smiles of Providence.

Unable to deny the evidence of the abundant prosperity with which Canada has been blessed during the Liberal regime, our Conservative friends fall back on Providence. Admitted that things are somewhat better than they used to be before the Liberals came into power, it is nothing to the credit of the Government, we are assured. The country has prospered because Providence has smiled upon us.

If that be true, the inference is perfectly plain. Providence smiled when the Liberals ruled, but frowned on the Conservatives. Because, if everything is due to the smiles of Providence, there could have been no smiles for the country when under the control of Tupper and Bowell. If there had been, there would have been prosperity then, instead of adversity.

How silly that sounds. The most rabid Grit would never make such a claim. We believe that Providence smiles on Canada all the time. Whether Conservatives or Liberals are in power, Providence causes the sun to shine, the winds to blow, the earth to bring forth abundantly, the cattle on a thousand hills to multiply. The only difference is, that the Liberals take advantage of the smiles of Providence, and by wise legislation and careful yet energetic management of our affairs, enable us to secure all the advantages to be derived from the smiles of Providence; while the Conservatives fritter away their time and their energies in trying to advance their own interests, and squabbling among themselves to decide who should have the biggest share of boodle, and the best choice of place.

The wise farmer makes his when the sun shines; the fool farmer sits around at the cross-roads store and talks politics. And there we have the whole secret of the difference in the condition of the country under Conservative and Liberal rule. We know the history of the former. Their fiscal legislation, framed to help a certain class, not only injured all other classes, but eventually reacted against the very people in whose interests it was supposed to be framed. They made no effort to develop the country; they talked about improving relations with Britain, but legislated against it; they spent more money than their industry policy collected from the country. But the Liberals legislated for all classes. The farmer and the consumer received the benefits of competition; while at the same time the manufacturer gained an advantage over outsiders by securing his raw material free. The manufacturer had protection under which he prospered as he never did before; while the consumer benefited by a prosperity which gave him plenty of work and reasonable charges for the articles he purchased. The Conservative talked about his loyalty and love of Britain, but the Liberal sent the sons of Canada to fight the battles of Britain. The Conservatives did not want to have anything to do with the United States, but never did anything to encourage trade with Britain. The Liberal gave a British preference which has resulted in building up a greater trade with the mother land. The Conservatives left the waste places of the Dominion unexplored and uncultivated. The Liberals have opened up all our wild lands; discovered their resources, brought in immigrants by the thousands to occupy the land, interested capitalists in the development of the country, and by an energetic transportation policy are endeavoring to facilitate communication between the settler and the market.

Between such policies who could hesitate to choose? Conservatism stands for little Canada; Liberalism means the larger Canada. Conservatism represents the Canada of the past; Liberalism is the Canada which shall be the bright and growing star of the twentieth century—a united and prosperous country, in its rapid development filling that place in the eye of the world which was filled during the past century by the United States. This is no time for a change.

Montague would not buy the brick.

The Free Press has a cut of Dr. Montague for sale cheap.

The Free Press is trying to work up enthusiasm with a force pump.

"Drive off the traitors," shouts Mr. Essery. "Amen!" says Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

If Billy Gray backs out, the major will have to go gunning for a candidate, sure.

Chief Montague felt that it would be like going up against a stone wall with a tomahawk.

It was rather mean of Mr. T. G. Meredith to talk about private cars in Dr. Montague's presence.

Come, come, Mr. Essery, let bygones be bygones. The Advertiser did sit on you once, but why recall it?

Senator Coffey must be a good man on the platform when his opponents want to keep him off.

Mr. Essery put his foot in it right up to the shins. Fancy speaking about traitors right in the doctor's face.

The Grits are on the run—Free Press.

And the Tories can't hope to catch up.

If Mr. Gray stays in the field he will do a good work by educating a few hundred Conservatives into voting Liberal.

The Free Press the other day claimed

LIBERAL GAINS IN MANITOBA

Government Forces Do Not Concede a Seat to Enemy.

A CONSERVATIVE DEFECTION

Prominent Supporter of Opposition Comes Out Against Borden's Railway Policy.

Winnipeg, Oct. 23.—The Liberal leaders here are not conceding a solitary Manitoba seat to the Conservatives, and are confident of carrying at least eight of the ten. The doubtful seats are Souris and Macdonald, but even here, where there are large Conservative majorities at last election to overcome the Liberals are sure to make a good showing. Winnipeg is not safe for the Liberals by 300 or 400 majority, as Mr. Bole's strength is growing daily. Dr. Roche, Mr. N. Boyd and Mr. A. C. C. LaRivière, all old members of the Liberal party, are among those whom the Liberals expect to defeat on Nov. 3. Mr. Jackson, Liberal, ex-Premier of Manitoba, is expected to make a special effort to defeat Mr. Greenway, but it will be without avail. Mr. Roblin has already addressed three meetings in Lisgar where he has been met with a large following. Mr. Greenway is a candidate, and Mr. Rogers, Minister of Public Works, is also making a special effort to defeat Mr. Greenway. Mr. Roblin met with a very cool reception at Gretna, in the Tennant settlement, last night. Mr. Rogers, former Dominion civil servant, and former Dominion civil servant, will then address meetings in his own constituency.

Conservative Defection.

Halifax, N. S., Oct. 23.—C. Ernest Gregory, barrister, of Antigonish, one of the ablest and most influential of the Conservative politicians in Nova Scotia, has come out squarely in opposition to the railway policy of Mr. B. L. Borden and announced that he is not supporting the Conservative party in the present campaign. Mr. Gregory has been so prominent a figure in the Conservative party that the announcement of his withdrawal in the heart of the campaign will cause a great sensation in this province. He is easily the best platform speaker the Conservatives had in Nova Scotia. He was a Conservative candidate in two hard-fought contests in Guysboro, in 1902 and 1903, and was defeated by D. C. Fraser. He was regarded as the coming man among the Conservatives. His opposition to Mr. Borden is a severe blow to the Tory party in this province, which will be almost solid for Laurier.

RUSSIAN BALTIC SEA SQUADRON

(Continued from page 1.)

flares to show that they were harmless fishermen, but these signals were ignored. Eighteen injured men are under treatment. One trawler, the Wren, is missing, and it is feared she has been sunk. There were many distressing scenes at Hull during the day and night, relatives inquiring after friends.

There is a rumor that the great northern fishing fleet was also chased by the Russians. This report has not yet been confirmed.

Skipper Peaker's Story.

London, Oct. 23.—The steam cutter Magpie, belonging to the Gamecock fleet, which was fired on by the Russian Baltic fleet, arrived in the Thames tonight. Her captain, Peaker, confirmed the details of the story received from Hull. He says: "On Friday night we were about 15 miles off the coast of the Baltic, at latitude 55 degrees, 15 minutes, and longitude 15 degrees, 15 minutes. It was a misty, drizzly night. We spread over an area of some miles. Our admirals had just previously signalled by rockets and colored lights the fishing direction for the night. Whether that was anything to do with what followed I do not know, but this thing is a mystery."

"Presently, through the mist, there appeared the lights of a fishing fleet, big and small. Knowing that the Baltic fleet was en route, we naturally assumed that they were Russians. I cannot say for certain. They were signalling one another, and with powerful searchlights, apart from every one of our fleet. Suddenly some of the warships started firing at about 20 boats, which were very close to us. At first supposed they were blank shots, and the boatswain of the Tomtit, which was close to us, shouted that he was at arms length. Some say he was offering them to the Russians in fun, and others that he was warning the Russians with the fact that they were peaceful fishermen and not disguised enemies. In any case, they were close enough for the Russians to see that their men were all engaged in gutting fish."

"When we realized that the Russians were firing shot, and that men were being wounded, all became terror and confusion. Nets were cut away, steam was gotten up, and the trawlers hurried away as fast as they could. By the rapidity of the shots they were from quick-firing guns. I have seen some of the shots embedded in the hull. They are the diameter, but not the length of a big cucumber, and with brass heads."

"What with the darkness, the rain and glare of searchlights we were unable to identify them. They were about half an hour the firing suddenly ceased, and the fleet steamed away in the direction of the English Channel."

Capt. Peaker confirms the details of the attack, and speaks with intense indignation of the conduct of the Russians. He says: "It is impossible for me to believe that the Russians could have been taken for such trawlers. I can only imagine that they were disguised as fishermen, and blazed away in confusion, and when they discovered their mistake steamed off."

Merchantmen Stopped.

Portsmouth, Oct. 23.—The report is confirmed here that vessels of the Russian Baltic fleet stopped and searched merchantmen off the Isle of Wight.

Russians Badly Scored.

Cherbourg, France, Oct. 24.—The advance guard of the Russian second Pacific Squadron, consisting of torpedo boats, is in the outer harbor. The main squadron is expected here, but it is not yet certain whether the warships will enter the harbor. The vessels, which arrived here, were not with the larger ships when the latter fired on the British fishing boats off the North Sea Saturday morning. Therefore, it is not yet possible to obtain the Russian version of the affair. The Russian torpedo boats are surrounded by guard boats and the utmost vigilance is maintained. No person is permitted to approach them, and no person is allowed to come ashore, excepting the postman. The boats are furnished with the wireless telegraph equipment. They took on provisions from the transport Korea. During last night and this morning the vigilance was redoubled owing to fears of Japanese ships being in the channel. The Russian torpedo boats and the transport Korea headed out to sea during the day, probably for the purpose of communicating with the main squadron.

The newspapers here report that the torpedo boats received a wireless telegram from the Russian flagship yesterday evening warning their commanders to exercise extra vigilance, as it was feared that a Japanese attempt might be made on the squadron while in the channel.

A Prodigious Blunder.

Berlin, Oct. 24.—"A prodigious blunder" is the German official verdict upon the attack of the Russian second Pacific Squadron on a British fishing fleet off Spurn Head early Saturday morning. It is assumed that the Russian Government will make reparation immediately after receiving the official report, which will be telegraphed from some French port probably today. The excitement in Great Britain is regarded as being fully justified, but the British Cabinet, it is believed, will take the view that the deplorable affair was the fault of rash officers.

German naval officers refer to the incident as evidence that the Russian squadron is badly officered.

Will Be Explained.

Lenox, Mass., Oct. 24.—Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, said yesterday concerning the attack of the Russian Squadron upon British North Sea fishing vessels: "It seems a deplorable accident, which, of course, will be explained."

Ambassador Durand, up to 10 o'clock today had received no official dispatches concerning the matter.

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DOGS AS SMUGGLERS

Employed on the Swiss Frontier Where Men Fail.

Geneva, Oct. 24.—Within the last three months no fewer than 270 dogs have been imported into the Swiss frontier by the act of smuggling tobacco, and salt from Switzerland. The fact that these articles are heavily taxed in Italy has led to a great deal of smuggling, especially of tobacco, and the Italian Government has fenced off the frontier with high spikes and a netting of which the spikes are fitted with alarm bells, while custom officers armed with rifles are on guard every hundred yards or so.

It has thus become almost impossible for men to carry on smuggling without being caught, and consequently they have taught dogs to do the work.

DIED AT THE ALTAR

Centenarian Burned to Death While About Her Devotions.

Opelousas, La., Oct. 24.—While engaged in prayer in the Catholic Church here, Mrs. Donald Guillory, aged 100 years, has been burned to death in a horrible manner.

She was kneeling before the altar, when a number of candles were burning. Her devotions concluded, she rose to leave the church, when her dress came in contact with a candle, and in a moment she was consumed.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CURE SICK HEAD

Rich Treadwell and relieve all the troubles attendant on a bilious state of the system, such as dizziness, nausea, constipation, distress after eating, pain in the side, etc. While their use is not necessary in all cases, it is a most reliable remedy for all such troubles.

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IT'S A PLEASURE

most men find to CARRY A GUN

and go for a day's shooting.

We rent Guns for 50c a Day

And sell all kinds of firearms and ammunition.

A. Westman

121 Dundas Street 7 Market Square.

Handsomeness Table Linens

The Very Finest Irish Linens are to be found here in great variety. We select them with great care and they are the pure, unadulterated flax, so cannot help but prove serviceable. We buy our Linens direct from maker, insuring you the lowest prices.



THE BEST AT LOWEST PRICES

VALUES ARE HERE BOTH IN QUALITY AND PRICE

Japanese Drawn Work, Tenerife and Irish Hand-Embroidered Drawn Work in Doilies, Centerpieces, Tray Cloth Covers, Teacloths, Fishcloths, etc.

Fine Irish Table Linens.

Quality is always first in our Table Linens. Handsomest linens ever imported to Canada. Special selection, worth \$1.65, for \$1.25.

Napkins to Match—Special selection, worth \$1.45, for \$1.25.

Sideboard Covers—18x54 inches at \$1.30, 18x72 inches at \$1.50 and \$1.75.

Irish Hand-Drawn Work—Tray Cloths, at \$1.45, 65c and 85c.

Cloths—32x32, at from \$1.30 to \$3.40.

Pillow Shams...30x30, at each...80c to \$1.30.

Tea Cloths, 30x30, at \$1.25, \$1.40 and \$1.50.

Tenerife Embroidered Doilies, at 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

Centerpieces at \$1.25, \$1.40, \$2.00.

Towels and Toweling

TOWELS AND TOWELING—Special values in Towels and Toweling. The best at bargain prices.

KINGSMILL'S

Special Sale of Irish Table Linens.

WOODS' FAIR.

New Buster Brown Collars.

We have just received a new shipment of Buster Brown Collars, nicely embroidered with silk, in all the latest shades of brown, blue, pink, white, red, cadet and black, sizes 12½ to 14½, value 40c. Sale price, each 25c.

Imported Floral Sour Tablets.

Pineapple Raspberry Lemon Cherry Menthol
Stewart's Cough Golden Cough Cherry Acid
Strawberry Lime Fruit Rose Violet

These are not a cheap candy—they are all the highest grade.

Quite a number of our customers have been trying our Maple Walnut Pudding and have been well pleased. You try some; it is the highest grade.

Ladies' 35c Vests at 25c.

Ladies' Light Flannel Vests, sleeve, lace-trimmed, button front, ribbed wrist, value 35c. Sale price 25c.

Ladies' 45c Vests at 35c.

Ladies' Long Sleeve, Fine Ribbed Vests, lace-trimmed, button front, shaped waist, value 45c. Sale price 35c.

Infants' Roller Vests, in fine wool. Sale price.....25c

Men's Wool Flannel Shirts and Drawers, ribbed wrist and ankle, all sizes, value 75c. Sale price, each 50c.

We sell the very best quality of Stove Pipes, all sizes, length, 10c.

Splendid line of Oblong and Square Stove Boards, at special prices this week.

Good, Strong Ash Sifters, smooth handles, each 15c.

Don't Blame the Cook!

Blame yourself for not getting "Walla Walla" Coal

Then the meal won't be late. "Walla Walla's" quick lighting quality is only equaled by its long-lasting habit.

It is hard coal—comes from the home of the finest hard coal mined, the Mammoth Vein region.

No slate—no clinkers—no dirt. One time screening at the mines—and three separate screenings here in our yards eliminates the real-estate and the paving material from "Walla Walla."

Treat your cook to it once and she will have the "Walla Walla" habit—which carries with it the habit of getting meals on time and getting things "done to a turn."

No, sirs! Doesn't cost a cent more than the ordinary coals.

Bowman & Co.,
295 Clarence Street, London.