

Macdonald Bye-Election

(Continued from page 19.)

of October who this Robert Lorne Richardson is. As for running under more than one flag, Sir Rodmond has served, like Bertie Cecil, under two flags."

The Independent candidate came from Lanark County, Ont. That was, perhaps, where he had learned to sing shanty songs. He served journalism on the Montreal Witness and the Toronto Globe, founded the "Sun" in early Winnipeg, then the Tribune, now the grown child of his affections. It was at the Deluge in 1896 that he was elected Liberal member for Lisgar, defeating the present Minister of the Interior. He broke with the Liberal party because he thought them too slow along lines of Government ownership, free-trade, etc., but, running successfully as an Independent Liberal in 1900, he was unseated. After that he was beaten, as an Independent, in Lisgar the next year in a three-cornered fight, eight years ago running for the local legislature against Lawrence, the present Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, and again in Assiniboia against Turriff in a Dominion election. Truly a lot of running. That is possibly how he got that rather effective little pant and catch of the breath when his sentences are long. This time he had been nominated Reciprocity candidate by a thousand or two of the Grain Growers of Macdonald, he said. He was emphatic that he had not desired the nomination, accented ruefully his Sense of Duty. He worked too hard now. The Tribune owned him. What did he want to do? Take his dog and gun, shoot and hunt through these crispy days that called. And there were books in the back of his mind in addition to the two already launched on a suffering public—his smile hinted, rueful again—one big political novel he desires to do before the end. And his much running? "I have always," he claimed, "fought for a forlorn hope. To my credit it ought to be that I've been shot to pieces and got up and fought again." "You like a fight?" "One grandfather was Yorkshire, and one fought at Trafalgar under Nelson." Over his unseating he was bitter for the only time, called it one of the most disgraceful and humiliating chapters in the history of politics in Canada. "The Liberals are supporting you this time, though?" "I hope to the Lord they are!" he gasped. The questions were inconsequent. What else did he want to do besides novels? He knew every time. "Travel. Take a hand in British politics. I'd love to help kick the Established Church to pieces, to take the land out of the hands of the few into the hands of the many." And he pointed a pencil at me and talked of Single Tax and the Sovereign people and Lloyd George and Lawson and the Anarchy-to-be-My-God! and the predatory interests. Once he had been ambitious—but now he valued influence and only a strong sense of duty was sending him into this fight in Macdonald.

I heard him again before an audience, a slightly-florid, round-faced, clean-shaven man, a bit Bryanesque, restless eyes under heavy brows, restless movements of heavy shoulders, a plain-man-among-men from his rather rowdy hat to his busy brown boots, a man, who, from evidence of brow and mouth, must often be divided against himself. Before an audience, he has the advantage of his journalist's facility in phrase-making, of a quick gift of rather sulky repartee, of a brusque bonhomme. He had always been the Farmers' Friend. He was in favour of lower tariffs, larger markets, an increased British preference, free-trade relations. The West would never rest till it had trade emancipation. His election in Macdonald would not be a party victory, he would not tell Mr. Borden that the Conservative party had been knocked galley-west in Macdonald, but that the West had declared for wider markets.

Mr. Alexander Morrison also comes from Ontario, born to the farm, home-staying in Manitoba as early as seventy-eight, near Carman, where he is even unto this day, with the quarter-section grown to two and a quarter, and Mr. Morrison identified through the years with school interests, municipal affairs, and agricultural progress. He was Reeve for six consecutive years of Dufferin, and has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Manitoba Agricultural College since the Board was organized, which testifies to his posi-

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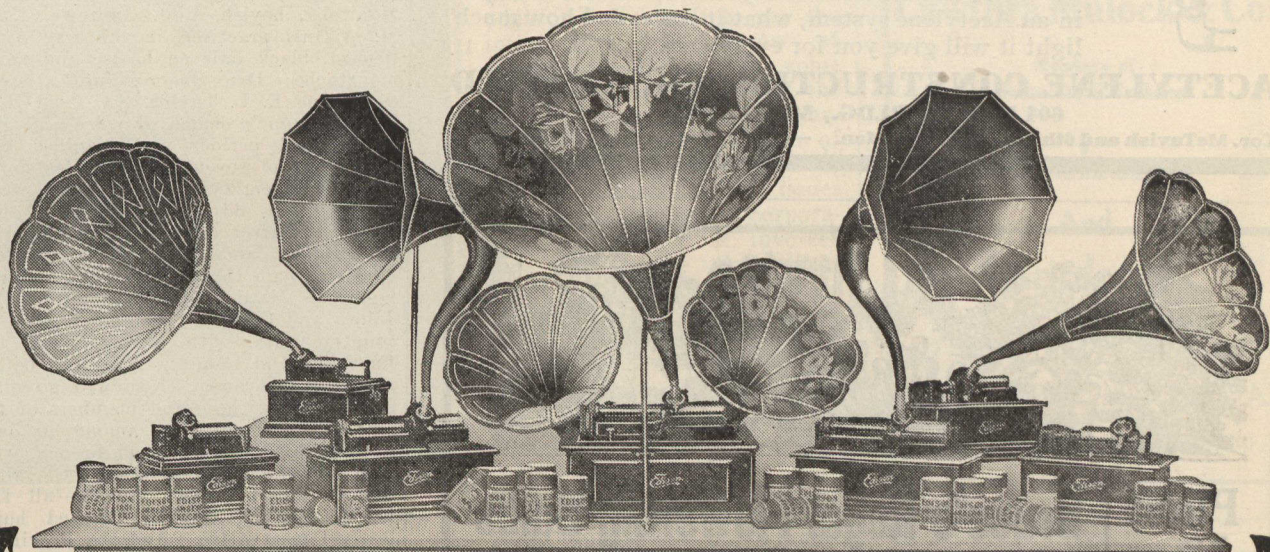
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