

# The Canadian

"Righteousness Exalteth a Nation, but Sin is a Reproach"

VOL. I.—No. 1.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1890.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

### Points and Pointers.

"The Third Party is dead, very dead! It died suddenly in Lambton on Monday."—*Bowmanville Statesman*.

But the corpse is exceedingly lively, as the *Statesman* will find out when the next election comes on in West Durham.

At Sarnia, just before the election, Mr. Mowat claimed that "Truth and Righteousness" was a plank of the Liberal platform. Just after the election a Lambton Liberal wrote to a friend,—"We have knocked Truth and Righteousness into a cocked hat."

Those who agree with the platform of THE NATION should help to extend its circulation. Those who do not agree should read it carefully, so that they may be able intelligently to oppose its teachings.

"Fancy the figure Mr. Meredith would cut in accepting the leadership of Dr. Sutherland and committing his friends inextricably to an impossible programme of Prohibition, No-Popery, and Truth and Righteousness!"—*Globe*.

Observe! Prohibition, truth and righteousness, and resistance to Jesuit aggression, constitute, from the *Globe's* point of view "an impossible programme." This shows what the country has to expect from the great Liberal party.

The *Empire* remarks that "those who voted for Mr. McCrae indisputably gave a vote of want of confidence in Mr. Mowat."

True; but it was equally a vote of want of confidence in the party led by Mr. Meredith. Let there be no mistake: Canada's New Party is just as thoroughly opposed to the Conservative party as it is to the Liberal, because it regards both parties as equally opposed to the new platform.

"The respectable vote polled for McCrae is a menace to both the old parties that in hunting for votes they may ultimately forfeit the confidence of the electorate at large."—*Ridgetown Plaindealer*.

This is good enough to go without comment.

"Two parties are sufficient for this country. If one party does wrong there are enough independent thinkers ready to support the other party and defeat the wrong doers. If both are wrong then the politics of the country must be rotten."—*Bothwell Times*.

It's not the politics but the politicians (some of them) that are rotten. And when a thing is rotten, what can you do but bury it?

The public debt of Canada is three times that of the United States in proportion to population. Is there not a "needs be" for economy and retrenchment?

The British Columbia W.C.T.U. has endorsed Canada's New Party by a unanimous vote. So did the Bruce County Branch; so did the Addington Branch. *Globe* please copy.

We were promised that when the Scott Act went down the price of barley would go up; but barley is lower now than ever before. Where is Mr. E. King Dods? The farmers want to see him.

"We are of the opinion that if the Convenor of our Home or Foreign Mission Boards were to become the head of a political party, and go upon the stump in the interest of his party, the General Assembly would very likely ask him to resign. If the Assembly did not, the people very soon would. Our Methodist friends are said to be able to turn anything to their advantage from the Book Room down to the taffy social. It remains to be seen whether they get gain or glory by allowing their Mission Secretary to take the stump as leader of a political party. If they gain anything in connection with politics they will be the first Church in Ontario that ever did."—*Canada Presbyterian*.

This gratuitous piece of advice to the Methodist Church to punish its Missionary Secretary for daring to lift his voice against political corruption in high places will be taken at its true value when it is known that the proprietor of the *Canada Presbyterian* is an out-and-out supporter of the Mowat Government, has enjoyed some fat contracts for Government printing, and is always ready to use his paper in defence of his employers. It is generally understood that the utterances of the *Presbyterian* are inspired from high quarters, and may be taken as outlining the party policy. As the Ontario Government captured the Methodist General Conference in regard to its university, probably it is thought the same thing can be done in regard to its Missionary operations.

THE Lambton contest has made two things undeniably clear, namely, the real whereabouts of the Dominion Alliance, and the trustworthiness of the prohibition professions of the Hon. G. W. Ross. It will be remembered that at the meeting of the Alliance last autumn, it was resolved to support Prohibitionists in electoral contests, no matter to what party they belonged, and to nominate independent candidates where the nominees of the old parties were not sound on this question. This resolution, we are told, passed with Mr. Ross's entire concurrence. In Lambton, three men were nominated,—a Liberal, who is an Anti-Prohibitionist; a Conservative, who is regarded as a trimmer; and a New Party man, who is an out-and-out Prohibitionist. What did the Alliance Executive do? Waited till a few days before polling-day, when it was too late even to circulate the news throughout the riding, and then in a timid whisper, as if afraid of being heard, resolved to support McCrae! What did Mr. Ross do? Stumped the constituency in support of the Anti-Prohibitionist! But Mr. Ross is not the only man who has climbed to position by temperance votes, and then kicked over the ladder by which he climbed.

NEXT to the vote in West Lambton, one of the most significant "signs of the times" is the nomination of Reeve Clendennan by the Conservative Convention of West York. When offered the nomination, Mr. Clendennan frankly declared that on some important issues—notably Prohibition, Equal Rights, and the Separate Schools—he was not in harmony with the leaders of his party. In defining his position he admitted that his platform was almost identical with that of Canada's New Party; and yet all this did not prevent him from receiving the unanimous vote of the Convention. This means one of two things—either that the Convention regarded these ante-election statements as something to be understood in a Pickwickian sense, or else that the party is reading the hand-writing on the wall, and is trying to swing into line with the current of public sentiment. We would like to support a man of Mr. Clendennan's character; but the fatal objection is this: whatever may be his personal convictions he is the nominee of a party whose policy is opposed to ours; he must either support the policy of his party or leave it; and if his convictions are not strong enough to lead him to break with the party now, will they be strong enough after he is elected? We doubt it.

THE nomination of an independent candidate in Algoma who, like Mr. McCrae in Lambton, plants himself upon the platform of Canada's New Party, is another sign of the times, and indicates how wide-spread is the revolt against the machine, and how imperative is the demand for equal rights. A few years ago such wholesale defections from the old party ranks would have been deemed impossible. Party discipline was so thorough, and the penalties for desertion so severe, that it was thought no one would have sufficient courage to make his way past the sentinels. But no sooner had one led the way than thousands more followed, and the "grand exodus" still continues. Party corruption, though great, has not entirely debauched the electorate. There is still a large conscience vote in the country, which has only been waiting for a chance to show itself. It may not be victorious in the first contest; but a ballot-box protest against wrong is a mighty educating power.

A FATAL hindrance to reform is the fact that the policy of the existing parties is shaped, and their course dominated, by the worse and not the better elements within those parties. Everything is measured by the standard of expediency. The consideration never seems to be what is right but what will win. In our provincial politics the policy of the Government in regard to Prohibition and Equal Rights has been dominated by the representatives of the liquor interest on the one hand, and of the Church of Rome on the other. We have no doubt this state of things has often been a sore grief to Mr. Mowat himself, but he is so fettered by party exigencies that he dare not protest. The men who really rule the parties are, for the most part, unscrupulous; upright Christian men count for nothing in the caucus, and are compelled to take a back seat. For such men there is but one right course—if they cannot reform the party they should leave it.

## CANADA'S NEW PARTY.

### A Message from Headquarters.

To the Members and Friends of Canada's New Party:—

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,—I gladly avail myself of the first issue of THE CANADIAN NATION, the recognized exponent of the principles of our party, to address to you a few words touching some aspects of the political situation, and what I conceive to be the duty of the hour. The rapid growth of our party has given it unexpected prominence. The large vote in West Lambton shows how ready the people are for a move on new lines. The manifest alarm of the old party leaders indicates how serious and wide-spread is the political upheaval, and all the signs of the times give warning that, in the near future, we shall have opportunity to try our strength on the field of a general election. That day must not find us unprepared. Candidates should be selected, committees formed, organization perfected. But these are tasks requiring caution and wisdom, as well as diligence and self-denial.

Up to the time of the West Lambton contest, the New Party was deemed too insignificant for notice, except in the way of sarcasm and banter. But a vote of nearly 800 as the result of our first effort, has suddenly opened the eyes of the party leaders, and convinced them that there is a new factor in the political problem of sufficient value to turn the scale in any constituency, as its weight may be thrown to the one side or to the other. *Herein lies our chief danger.* Beyond doubt every effort will now be made by the leaders on both sides to capture the New Party vote; to induce us to refrain from nominating candidates, and to support those nominees of the other parties who may announce themselves as favorable to one or more planks of the New Platform. Already this has occurred. In one constituency a Conservative candidate has announced a platform almost identical with ours, and yet has received the unanimous nomination of his party. I do not, for one moment, call in question the sincerity of the candidate referred to. Frankly he has declared himself to be out of harmony with the leaders of his party on such important questions as Prohibition and Equal Rights, and the stand he has taken is worthy of all praise; but I would remind you that the principles and convictions of an individual candidate cannot change the policy of his party. If elected, he must vote with his party or leave it, and in neither case is anything gained for the New Party or its policy. If either of the old parties will join us in the new crusade, we can have no objection; but it must be upon the basis of our own platform, for the New Party makes no deals and no compromises. We have organized on the basis of great principles, and the moment we let them slip there is no longer any reason for our existence as a party. Our organization was a protest against the old parties as at present constituted and led, and the opinions of one candidate cannot change either the constitution or the leadership. The duty of all friends of the New Party is to stand by their own platform and their own candidates.

In regard to one most important question—that of Prohibition—it is clear that the attitude of the old parties is still unchanged. Let no one say that this is a Dominion question, with which the local Parliament has nothing

to do, for while legislation on this subject belongs to the Dominion, enforcement belongs to the Provincial authorities, and a prohibitory law from Ottawa would be of no avail so long as a hostile Government reigned in Toronto. The Ottawa Government is hostile to Prohibition we all know. That the Ontario Government is equally so is now beyond dispute. By a policy of non-enforcement it killed the Scott Act, and made its attitude unmistakable in choosing a pronounced Anti-Prohibitionist as its standard-bearer in West Lambton. And if further evidence were needed the trend of policy is shown by the fact that the Central Reform Association has recently elected a retired liquor-dealer as its president.

On the other hand the attitude of the Conservative party is equally unsatisfactory. There has been no utterance from the leader to show that the party is in any degree in sympathy with prohibitory legislation, and the Conservative press has spoken no word of encouragement along that line. The *Hamilton Spectator*, which, next to the *Empire*, may be regarded as voicing the sentiments of the party, expressly excepts Prohibition from the platform on which it is willing to meet the New Party men. From many quarters we are assured that the New Party would receive abundant support if it would only abandon the plank of Prohibition. Such advisers know better. The advice is not disinterested. They know that this question constitutes one of the broad lines of demarcation between the old parties and the new, and that to abandon it would immensely weaken the moral power of the New Party in the country. Let no one be deceived! The New Party stands by Prohibition! We have nailed our colors to the mast

"That flag may sink with a shot-torn wreck  
But shall never float over a slave."

There are three things to which would especially call the attention of friends of the New Party, namely, local organization, the spread of literature and the selection of candidates for both the Provincial and the Dominion Legislatures. Each of these is so important that, as a duty, it scarce needs to be enforced. Without local organization the party will be but rope of sand; without a literature spread all over the country we cannot hope to bring the mass of the people into sympathy with our principles and without candidates of the right stamp we cannot make the influence of the party felt when the general election takes place. I would respectfully urge, therefore, that wherever there are two or more persons in sympathy with the principles of the New Party they meet for organization, constitute themselves a committee, seek for recruits, and to circulate THE CANADIAN NATION; and when in any constituency a moderate number of pledged members are secure call a convention to nominate a standard-bearer. A general election is not far distant. It may be sprung upon us any day. Let us organize our forces, spread our principles, avoid compromises, stand by our platform and put our whole strength into earnest effort to lift our country out of the quagmire of political corruption.

Yours for God and Our Country,  
A. SUTHERLAND,  
President Central Executive Council

We call special attention to an article on the second page of this issue, entitled "The Manifest Destiny of Canada," by Prof. J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University. It is beyond question the ablest article on the subject that has yet appeared, and being written by a talented Canadian, from the standpoint of Canadian nationality merits the careful attention of every patriotic citizen. At a time when a section of the party press is doing all it can to belittle our country; when some who pose as "leading politicians" are advocating a policy that, if followed, must end in our absorption by a foreign power; when both parties are pursuing a course that tends to smother all national aspirations; it is most refreshing to find a man of Prof. Schurman's ability taking so hopeful and patriotic a view of our country's future, and supporting his view by an array of facts and arguments that cannot be gainsaid. Let all who receive this number of THE NATION, "read, learn, mark, and inwardly digest," Prof. Schurman's paper.

THE *Progress* is a live eight-page newspaper, published at Qu'Appelle, N.W.T., well edited, well printed, and plants itself squarely upon the platform of Canada's New Party. We heartily welcome this new ally, who, we doubt not, will do yeoman service in the good cause. Prohibition is making headway in the North-West in spite of the Governor's championship of the liquor interest. Equal Rights is also fairly to the front and will not be put down. Machin politicians are going to have a hard time of it out there.

We have received a copy of the annual address of the President of the W. C. T. U., Mrs. Phoebe C. Brethour of Thorold. The address covers twenty-two closely printed pages, and is a model document of its kind. The range of topics is extensive, and they are treated in a manner which shows wide reading, careful observation, and a wise adaptation of means to end. Let the address be widely circulated and, better still, let its practical suggestions be embodied in action.