

PROVINCE SHOULD BE UNANIMOUS.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser raises its voice in angry protest against the presence of Liberal members of Parliament in the interior constituencies in which elections have yet to be held. Our carping contemporary argues that Yale-Cariboo and Kootenay should be permitted to return Conservative members as a protest against the alleged grievances and injustices under which British Columbia is suffering. It is contended that the contests in three provincial constituencies were postponed until a date later than the ordinary election day in order that the weight of an overwhelming Liberal majority in the Dominion might strike terror into the hearts of doubting electors or secure votes by the suggestion that it was better to return government supporters. We might combat such a suggestion by pointing out that Conservative governments set the example of bringing off elections in remote and far from compact ridings at dates fixed by returning officers, and that the plea on behalf of such procedure is surely as sound to-day as it was a few years ago. Far be it from us to suggest that because there have been precedents for such a course of action that such precedents should be followed by a government which has proved by its course that it would soon to take any unfair advantage of the opposition. We might cite the eminently fair redistribution measure that has been substituted for the notorious gerrymander act as proof of the absolute disinterestedness of the procedure to which our disgraced contemporary objects. And then how could the members of the administration know when they left to returning officers the fixing of the dates of polling in certain constituencies that they were going to have an overwhelming majority with which to terrorize the electors of Comox-Atlin, Yale-Cariboo and Kootenay? The Colonist and the News-Advertiser and Sir Hilbert Tupper, and greater than any of these, Messrs. McBride and Green, assented with all the energy they could impart to written and spoken words which the defeat of the government was as certain as though it had been announced in returns. We are not sure but even cautious and shy Mr. Carter-Cotton raised his convincing voice in prophecy, also to the same effect. It was the unanimous opinion of this group of notables that the majority of the great Conservative party, with Mr. Borden as the Premier Lord Minto could not leave Canada until he had sworn in, would be used to terrorize the electors of the three constituencies into voting against Messrs. Smith, Ross and Gallaher.

We fear the heart of the News-Advertiser man is exceeding sorrowful because the people of British Columbia have refused to accept as sincere the protests of the leading lights of the Tory party that British Columbia has been oppressed by the Laurier government. Sir Hilbert Tupper and all the members of the McBride government were on the stump continuously for several weeks portending in woful colors the injustices to which we had been subjected by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. They read telegrams from Leader Borden promising that he would look into things when he came to his own and would see that our wrongs were righted. He would inquire into the matter of better terms. He would give our industries "adequate protection." But it was particularly noticeable that he was vague and indefinite in his promises as it was possible for any quibbler to be. He did not telegraph that when he was sworn in by the Governor-General, who could not leave his post until Toryism had been restored to its hereditary rights, that he would grant better terms. He did not send a dispatch saying that his first act would be to place the duty on lumber his party had taken off. He did not declare he would place the lead industry on a pinnacle of prosperity by charging a duty on the foreign article. Possibly the Borden conscience is of a different type from the Tupper or the McBride or the Cotton conscience. He refused to add hypocrisy to the insincerity of his own people in Nova Scotia convicted him on the 3rd of November when they declared by electing eighteen straight Crites by an immense popular majority that they did not believe his declarations that the people of Canada were going to pay nine-tenths of the cost of construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and that the purpose of the company was to make Portland, Maine, its Atlantic terminus. Neither did the people of British Columbia regard as truthful the assertions of Tory newspapers and Tory stumpers that the Grand Trunk Pacific would be a curse and not a blessing to this province. They have no faith in political confidence men.

If the News-Advertiser thinks it the duty of the inferior constituencies to elect Conservatives, why does it not counsel the war horses who did such notable championing and kicking in the contest to go up and meet the delegation of Liberals now touring there and speaking on behalf of Ross and Gallaher? Is it because Burrill and Macintosh have implied them to keep away and give the candidates a fighting chance?

A DISAPPOINTED PROPHECY.

It is strange that Goldwin Smith cannot divert his mind of the idea that because the "destiny of Canada has been cast on this continent" that that destiny must inevitably be lost in the destiny of the United States. Is it an un-

usual thing for two nations to exist side by side on one continent? The Doctor has been in Canada for more than thirty years. During all that time he has constantly given expression to the dominant idea in his mind. In his writings and his speeches he has done all in his power to hasten "manifest destiny." He has striven to foster the annexation sentiment and to reconcile the people of Canada to it. In all that time, with all the abilities of the protagonist, he has not made a single convert on this side of the line. The movement has lost what little strength it may at one time have had. In Canada we have set up a system which fits with very nearly perfect into the ideals of the people. Those ideals are becoming stronger with every year that passes. We are coming under the inspiration of the boundless possibilities rising all around the national horizon. The spirit will become stronger and more buoyant with each year of growth and development. There is a future of promise before us. There is not a Canadian to-day who believes that we shall ever surrender our political independence, together with our admirable system of responsible and responsive government, even to become bone and sinew of the towering nation that is rapidly developing alongside of us. The Canadian of the future will be just as assertive of his independence as if there had been any possibility of the extinction of a different spirit, we should have had manifestations of it in the days when the future held out no such golden promise. Neither in the flesh nor in the spirit will Professor Goldwin Smith, the learned man who is too great and broad in nature to entertain sentiments of patriotism, behold Canada a part of the United States. That is our hope and our belief.

RUSSIA'S DREAM.

To-day's dispatches announce that it is the intention of Russia to immediately commence the double tracking of the Siberian railway. When this work is completed the war with Japan will be "rushed to a conclusion." That is indeed a delightful prospect for the belligerents to contemplate. Somehow the thought is borne in upon us that the war will not drag on for years. Neither Russia nor Japan could stand it. Like everything else to which humanity sets its hand this war will be hurried to the end from the simple to the complex stage. There is more involved than the hewing down of men with short or long swords. Human life in neither Russia nor Japan is held in very high esteem. It is cheap. But the implements which must be supplied to the cheap men in order that they may successfully meet other cheap men in mortal combat are very costly. In the case of Russia the transport of the cheap troops is perhaps the most costly part of the business. If the Muscovite were as leisurely in his movements as his forbears were, and the contingency of an aggressive and exceedingly active enemy would permit, the war might match his forces through Siberia involving a loss on route of perhaps one per cent. of the human life which would be lost. In the case of Russia the transport of the cheap troops is perhaps the most costly part of the business. If the Muscovite were as leisurely in his movements as his forbears were, and the contingency of an aggressive and exceedingly active enemy would permit, the war might match his forces through Siberia involving a loss on route of perhaps one per cent. of the human life which would be lost. In the case of Russia the transport of the cheap troops is perhaps the most costly part of the business. If the Muscovite were as leisurely in his movements as his forbears were, and the contingency of an aggressive and exceedingly active enemy would permit, the war might match his forces through Siberia involving a loss on route of perhaps one per cent. of the human life which would be lost.

As the conditions will not permit, and as improved means of communication are admittedly necessary in order to place them on the scene of action, and to feed them when they are there, Russia is to be further depleted of the "bone and sinew" of her population in order that the prestige of the nation shall be saved. Then after the track is laid there will arise the problem of supplying rolling stock. However, that will be a comparatively simple matter, according to the standard set in the present equipment of the line.

A recent letter between Ekaterinograd and Ottawa saw a number of Russian troops train, and describes his experiences in the London press. He says that the cars were ordinary goods vans collected from all the railways of the Russian Empire. A good many belonged to the Ekaterinograd Railway, the name of which was blazoned on them in Russian. In the train van several planks were placed crossways and lengthways, so as to form benches, but they were so arranged that they could not be of much comfort to any one wishing to sleep, and the men usually slept, or tried to sleep, on the floor. Owing to the fatiguing nature of the journey, the troops were allowed to sleep after three days' travelling. There seemed to be very little in the way of kit in the cars, but some of them had a small iron stove for heating in winter. In transporting cavalry or artillery, the horses were placed at each end of the car, with the saddles piled up in a pyramid in the intervening space, which was also occupied by a few soldiers. In each train there were two or three second-class cars provided with sleeping couches for the officers. The writer says that the men were quite orderly in their behavior, although occasionally a drunken soldier might be seen struggling with two companions who were dragging him back to his car. He was informed, however, that the Ekaterinograd recruits—most of them were engaged in the iron and steel trade—strongly objected to being sent to the front, and caused serious trouble, requiring escort by strong detachments. Inhabitants of various towns along the line assembled at the stations to see the troops pass, but there was no sign of enthusiasm, and not a single cheer. Owing to the limited railroad facilities, adds the writer, few of these troops cars are ever returned, but are used at the front for fuel. No wonder the supply of freight cars for ordinary traffic is short.

The counsel of the peace-makers will surely prevail before the Siberian railway is in a position to carry the force necessary to subdue Japan.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

Now the question of an improved water supply is practically before the people of Victoria. Mr. Raymer's report, read at Monday's meeting of the City Council, deals in detail with the cost of delivering an adequate supply within the limits of the city. Once here, avenues of distribution must be provided. The present varied assortment of pipes, of all degrees of capacity, must be taken up and replaced by material which will permit of not only a plentiful supply of water to every citizen for household and fire protection purposes, whether his habitation be set upon a crag like the acropolis of an eagle or nestles modestly in a valley like the homes of sweet Auburn. In a word, Victoria's water works system must be overhauled and renovated. We must thrust aside the hedge-podge that has grown upon our hands as we developed from a village into a populous and prosperous city, and substitute for it a thorough, complete and efficient water service which will be ample for our needs for many years to come. According to Mr. Raymer's calculations it will take in the neighborhood of half a million dollars to accomplish this, nearly a hundred and fifty thousand of which must be devoted to the laying of larger pipes within the streets of the city, and without which an increase in the capacity of the mains would be no remedy at all for the evils at present complained of.

Before the ratepayers of Victoria are asked to approve of the scheme elaborated by Mr. Raymer, involving as it does permanent charges for operating pumps, maintaining reservoirs and cleaning filter beds, they will assuredly want to know whether there is any other practicable source of water supply, possibly calling for no larger expenditures and insuring many advantages which the reservoir on Bald Hill could never possess. The decision to be made now must be final. The question of the advantages or the disadvantages, the feasibility or the reverse, of obtaining water by gravitation from Goldstream or Sooke lakes must be put before our citizens in such a manner as will enable them to understand the intricacies of the problem, to pronounce judgment intelligently, and to select judiciously. Tapping Goldstream or Sooke lakes might be a more costly business in the first instance, but if a large annual saving could be effected in the cost of operation, if such enlargements of the supply as might be required in the future could be easily effected, and if the water delivered were so palatable and no less healthful, the ultimate cost and other advantages might be sufficient to determine judgment in favor of the natural gravity scheme.

We assume, of course, that there are other projects than the one outlined by the water commissioner before the City Council last night. We also assume that this is a matter that cannot be let drop because it involves an expenditure of very large sum. It should have been taken up and settled before the city had so completely outgrown the capacity of the present works. The policy of temporizing cannot be continued longer without a serious menace to the existence of the city from fire and to the lives of the citizens from disease.

WILL NEVER REGRET IT.

The Conservative party in Quebec is completely demoralized as a result of the great Liberal victory throughout Canada. As an excuse for refusal to place candidates in the field for the provincial contest, its leaders plead that Premier Parent is taking an unfair advantage of them in following so closely in the wake of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's triumph. They have been "left" sessions of the Quebec Legislature, which is the limit contemplated by the constitution. What difference could the postponement of the elections for a month or two possibly make? There were only seven Conservative members in the last local House. The leader of the opposition was evidently afraid of being placed entirely out of business. Practically identical conditions prevail in Nova Scotia, where Hon. W. S. Fielding swept as with a broom. Even in Ontario, where the members of the party had taken heart of grace with the last couple of years because the spark of hope burned brightly, fanned by the hope that Premier Ross was in extremis—even in Ontario a great depression has fallen upon the party, and it has given up the hope of consulting itself for federal purposes by carrying the greatest of the provinces. The Colonist, while admitting the depth of the catastrophe, laughingly says "it was not the Liberal-Conservative party, but Canada that was hurt the most" by the verdict of November 3rd. It is passing strange, surely, that there is not a disheartened whisper in the whole world with an understanding of the conditions, and that does not say Canada is to be congratulated on the choice she made on election day. The newspaper press of the English-speaking world has commented with satisfaction on the success of the Liberal government, has referred in eulogistic terms to the present status and the future prospects of the Dominion, and has given us a large amount of advertising which will enhance our prosperity and further promote the remarkable growth of the past few years. For instance, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says:

"One of the results of the Canadian

election that will have a far-reaching effect on the whole world is the prospective early enlargement of the available wheat belt by the addition of something like 170,000,000 acres of virgin Canadian lands capable of producing in large quantities the best quality of wheat on earth.

"The support given the Laurier government in returning such an overwhelming Liberal majority puts the Dominion solidly behind the Liberal policy. As the only issue involved was the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific in harmony with the plans of the Premier and his cabinet, the early completion of that great and important enterprise is now assured to a certainty. On either side of the projected line, extending for over one thousand miles, is an empire untouched. This project gives transportation facilities to 170,000,000 acres of land that has never known a plow, all of which is known to be wonderfully productive. It is predicted that within the next twenty years that section will be producing an annual wheat crop of 500,000,000 bushels.

"This will do much to replace land gradually taken from the wheat areas elsewhere and given over to diversified farming. It means much more to Canada, however, than to the world as a whole. It is a great step towards making Canada become the great wheat producing and exporting country of the globe, as it surely will, there is a great future for that country. It is vast in area, varied in resources, rich in natural wealth and progressive in its national policy. Hereafter it has only lacked population. But it is now offering attractions that will bring population from everywhere, but chiefly from the American states, as Americans more than any other people understand the opportunities that exist there for the intelligent, the energetic and the provident. They are almost unequalled.

CANADA'S FUTURE POLICY.

The result of the general elections has surely had a paralyzing effect upon the mental equipment of the able editor of the News-Advertiser. President of the Council in the McBride government, etc., etc. Our contemporary goes all the way to England for an intimation that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier were returned to power a maximum and minimum tariff would be brought into force. It says: "We do not know what authority Mr. Ball (Canadian commercial agent at Birmingham) had for making such a statement. It is to be supposed, however, that he had good grounds for an assertion which, considering his official position, he would have scarcely made had he not received an intimation from an authoritative source. Uttered as it was in Mr. Chamberlain's own town, it naturally excited much interest, since the adoption of such a plan would be complimentary to and harmonize with the fiscal policy of the Conservative government."

We have said, what can have come over and obscured the understanding of our contemporary? Its statesmanlike director surely read the last budget speech of Finance Minister Fielding. Occupying a position which demands a profound knowledge of public affairs, Mr. Carter-Cotton must have studied the last financial statement delivered in the Dominion House of Commons. Affecting directly and indirectly the welfare of the whole country for one year at least, potentially affecting such interests for many more years, no public man could possibly afford to ignore such an important deliverance. And yet in that speech Mr. Fielding explicitly declared that the government had in contemplation the construction of a tariff under which Canada would deal with other countries as other countries deal with her. There would be a maximum, a minimum, and a preferential tariff. Foreign nations would have the privilege of indicating by their policy what tariff they chose to have applied to their goods seeking admission to Canada. The preferential tariff, Mr. Fielding said, it was proposed to reserve strictly for Great Britain and sister colonies under the Balfour-Chamberlain system. It is manifest that the tariff policy of the government was to be made known to the world by the action of the Dominion House of Commons. The tariff policy of the government was to be made known to the world by the action of the Dominion House of Commons. The tariff policy of the government was to be made known to the world by the action of the Dominion House of Commons.

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Characteristics of Joseph W. Folk

Wherever I have travelled this summer and fall I have heard the name of Joseph W. Folk on everybody's lips, and it has been a part of my amusement to draw out persons who have become his admirers from afar, and see what sort of a mental conception they had formed of a man who they knew well by his work, but had never seen. Some of the portraits were fantastic, as was to be expected in the case of a popular hero; but even the same ones were as a rule so far from the truth as to be absurd. Most of them painted him as a large, powerfully built man, with the hard, heavy-browed face of a Puritan and the dominating manner of a Jack O'Leary, with a long and noisy forefinger that seemed to dig into the vitals of the man's conscience at whom it was pointed in gesture with a fiery eye, a resonant baritone voice, and a dramatic style of oratory suggestive of the stage, and making every speech a harangue.

Now the Folk of real life is comically far from meeting this ideal. Imagine a round, well-filled face, smooth-shaven, on a head the crown of which stands back of its centre; a brunette complexion in which the pink tones predominate; a good supply of nearly black hair; a broad brow that by turns wrinkles vertically and smooths itself with some rapidity in conversation; dark eyes, very large, that read and absorb rather than flash; a nose which started out to be