

## THE SOUTH-WEST TORONTO BY-ELECTION.

THE most remarkable event of the last month undoubtedly was the election of South-West Toronto for the Provincial Legislature.

No less than four candidates were in the field, Mr. Norris, Conservative, Mr. Dewart and Mr. Waldron, Liberals, and Mr. Connor, Socialist.

What particularly attracted the attention of the country to the contest was the attitude of all parties concerned to the question of prohibition. It is to be remembered that at the last session of the Legislature, a law of total prohibition was passed, and passed unanimously, to the apparent satisfaction of the whole province, and yet prohibition was scouted by all candidates, saved Mr. Connor and he got less than five hundred votes.

The real contest was between Mr. Norris and Mr. Dewart. Mr. Norris ran as a straight supporter of the Hearst government, except on the question of prohibition which he flatly opposed. Mr. Dewart, though ranging himself behind Mr. Rowell, reserved his liberty of action as to his temperance policy. Mr. Dewart, the Liberal candidate was triumphantly elected.

There are but few Liberals now living, if indeed there be any, to remember the election of one of their faith in the Southern section of Toronto. In Tory Toronto, the Southern division always held a sorry pre-eminence. When in other parts, Toryism might occasionally be shaken and vanquished, in South Toronto, it always grimly kept its hold even on the most discordant elements.

What was the cause of this sudden and unexpected reversal?

It is probable that the personality of the successful candidate may have contributed to his victory. Mr. Dewart has the honor of having inherited a popular name in Toronto, and that name he has made still more popular. His father was in his day a clergyman of high standing in the Methodist Church and a citizen much honored by all classes, for his sweet and kindly disposition, and his sterling and manly character. The son has all those gifts in abundance. In his chosen profession, the law, he has risen to, and long occupied, a high place in the very front rank and he is, in addition, a vigorous, incisive and eloquent platform orator.

Such qualities always tell in an election. Yet the time was and not so far distant, when these qualities tried by Mr. Dewart, failed to penetrate the impervious crust of Tory Toronto.

### The Prohibition Question.

It is asserted by the Conservative press, in explanation of their defeat that the liquor interests large and small, wholesale and retail, lined up against the government. We are not in a position to verify that statement. It may well have some foundation. The liquor interests always were supposed to be in close association with the Conservative organization, and from the day that Mr. Rowell promulgated his temperance policy, they are said to have sweated gold and whiskey to defeat him. The introduction of prohibition in Ontario by the Conservative administration sounded to them not only as ingratitude but rank treason, and it is

not unlikely that to them revenge was sweet.

There is also reason for believing that the attitude of the government lost to them the vote of all honest friends of temperance. The government threw themselves headlong into the contest. Ministers spoke and canvassed, but instead of squarely facing the issue, and at least defending the legislation for which they were responsible, the public was startled to hear them declare that they had "their ears to the ground." They made it clear that if thus intently listening, with "their ears to the ground," they heard ominous rumblings, they would not hesitate to retrace their steps, sacrifice principle to expediency and save their offices.

Such wobbling was met with general contempt; it disgusted even more than it irritated both friends and opponents of prohibition.

Yet prohibition does not seem to have been half so powerful a factor in the result, as the nickel question—a question to which recent events have imported a sudden and paramount importance.

Canada has by far the richest nickel deposits in the world; the only other country which in this respect approaches it, is the French colony of New Caledonia.

### Nickel.

The nickel ores in Canada are exploited by the well known Mond Company, a British firm which has its workshops in Swansea, Wales, and by the International Nickel Company, an American firm whose workshops and business are in the State of New Jersey.

The International Nickel Company has long been selling the products of its Canadian mines to the governments of all the countries now at war, excepting France, and it is a fact to which we can no longer close our eyes, that the whole of the nickel which has entered into the naval and military armaments of Germany came from this country.

So long as peace reigned, both people and government were oblivious of the fact, but when war came, they suddenly were confronted with the dangerous and exasperating reality. Public opinion was seriously disturbed and alarmed. It sought to comfort itself with the thought that if nickel were sold to Germany by the American firm, the British fleet would effectively prevent delivery; it was reassured when on the floor of Parliament, Canadian Ministers repeatedly declared their assurance based on information from the British authorities, that no nickel reached Germany from the United States.

### Submarines Carried Canadian Nickel.

A new factor has now arisen in the adaptation by Germany of the submarine vessel to the carrying trade, and converting it into a freight carrier.

The world learned some weeks ago with astonishment not unmixed with admiration for the enterprise, that the German submarine Deutschland had reached Baltimore with a cargo of dye stuffs. Some weeks later the Canadian people were shocked to hear that the same vessel had left on its return journey with a cargo largely composed of nickel, of Canadian nickel. They have since been appraised that