

# The Toronto World

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## THE WORLD.

Toronto, Hamilton Office, 4, Adelaide, North James-street, S. F. Lockwood, agent.

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## THE LIBERAL PUZZLE.

Where is all the wild enthusiasm which, according to veracious chroniclers, characterized the assembly that formed the late Liberal convention and which was going to carry the Ross government to victory on the crest of its wave? It seems to have been but a fleeting and evanescent quality after all.

"Like the dew on the mountain,  
Like the foam on the river,  
Like the bubble on the fountain,  
It is gone, and forever."

The whole circumstance irresistibly recalls the beautiful Bob Acres in Sheridan's comedy of "The Rivals," who was so terribly anxious that the passion he had worked up should not be wasted. But he had no stomach for a fight when it did come, and when brought face to face with his adversary, promptly showed up in his true colors. One must wonder why all this wonderful passion, which so swayed the hearts and minds of the countless thousands of delegates, was allowed to waste and did not become the motive force of these separate apostles of the new evangel of Liberalism in Ontario. Now, all the worry must be done over again, the bellows set to work for a second time and the warring embers fanned into another gale of flame. What has effected this sea change, rich and strange, and reduced the lusty shout of vain confidence to the feeble twitter of assured defeat?

It is unquestionable that at the date of this epoch-making convention Premier Ross had made up his mind to cross his electoral Rubicon and burn his boats behind him. He had just completed the reconstruction of his ministry and had succeeded, as the waiting multitude were assured on undoubted authority, in replacing those who had resigned for his salvation and the good of the province by substitutes quite as able, disinterested and loyal as his distinguished predecessors. It was, in fact, another ministry of all the talents cleansed from the defilement which clung to the skirts of the preceding cabinet, and headed by a premier carefully white-washed, and ready to press forward for the future with his slate clear of the dark record it bore. No wonder the machine-made convention went into raptures as it weighed principles in the party balance and whitened down pledges to meet political exigencies.

Premier Ross has been for some considerable time and is now simply a discredited political gamster living on his wits, and, as is usual in the circumstances, not over anxious in his discovery and conviction. But try as he will he cannot escape from the consequences which follow from the company a politician keeps. There is not a detected gang of pluggers, bullies, swindlers and mean-spirited manipulators who have not in some way or other involved prominent members of the government and looked to the government for support and assistance. That support and assistance they have got positively there is every reason to believe, and negatively beyond the shadow of a doubt. The government that profited by the unholy work did its best to shield the miscreants whose deeds have been brought to light, and its defenders actually claim credit for having stopped this last investigation on an alleged legal quibble. It would have been done, too, had the plot not been revealed in a manner which compelled acquiescence in an investigation which ought to have been a public work, as it was a public duty. Such as it is, this feature to burke an enquiry into a gross case of electoral fraud is the government's sole title to pose as the defender of public right.

## A SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL.

Altho William Shakespeare's name needs no monument to keep it everlastingly remembered, there will be few erect a memorial to the effort just instituted to erect a memorial to the great dramatist in the metropolis of the English-speaking peoples. London is that, and cannot be depicted till such time as Macaulay's New Zealand sits on the crumbling remains of London Bridge and gazes in silent meditation on the ruins of St. Paul's. What objection may be made will come from the extraordinary folk who have imagined themselves that the wonderful volume of plays we are accustomed to call Shakespeare's are really the work of Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, that greatest wisest, meanest of mankind. Into this controversy we do not intend to enter, not desiring to provoke the endless extracts of so-called argument which devotees of this and other kindred cults have always at command. It is sufficient for our purpose that William Shakespeare was, in the opinion of his friends and literary acquaintances, the author of the dramas which bear his name, and if they were satisfied he lived

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Shakespeare has long ceased to be a special English poet, altho he never was a greater Englishman. It is certainly surprising that a nation regarded as the embodiment of insular prejudice and more incapable than any other people of entering into the mind and spirit of races differing from themselves should yet have produced the only truly universal poet. Germany has annexed him without compunction, declaring him to be the only absolute exponent of the Germanic spirit. Even in France he has shown his way to recognition, despite his supreme indifference to all her literary men hold dear. It has been a sore struggle for the upholders of the classic drama to admit that any good can come out of romantic art, but Shakespeare's mastery of the human heart has proved too strong for the arbitrary rules in which French dramatists were cribbed, cabined and confined.

The memorial, it is said, is to be raised on a prominent site after the fashion of the Albert memorial in Kensington, or the Scott memorial in Edinburgh. Shakespeare deserves some more original monument, if it can be found, as it was, cannot be pronounced altogether a success. The Scott monument is a work of genius all the more remarkable that it was the work of a Scottish working mason, who like many of his countrymen found his way upward thru all hindrances and difficulties. No doubt the central idea, the Wizard of the North, surrounded by his own innumerable creations, is as appropriate to Shakespeare as to Scott, but the original preface in some unaccountable manner got incorporated into one of the later chapters of his work. But whatever the reason he has made an interesting and suggestive addition to a piece of literary craftsmanship which embodies a lot of research and independent judgment. Altho some of his obiter dicta elicited some deprecating criticism, chiefly from the friends of Sir Hudson Lowe, he has not seemed to modify them, and they must, therefore, be accepted as his last word on the seven years' captivity of the Man of Destiny.

The most fertile seam opened in his additional chapter is his imaginative speculation on "The beneficent possibilities of a Napoleon at peace," a topic which, he says, may be idle, but not wholly unfruitful. Had Napoleon been set at large in England, remarks Lord Rosebery, he would have been a more formidable foe than the Napoleon who would not doubt have tried to play the part of a country squire. He might have attempted to replace himself with the ambitions, at once petty and solid, of a gentleman farmer; have punched his cattle, or weighed his pigs, and simulated satisfaction with his lot. That, perhaps, had been the worst ending of all, for no one would have believed in it. Other men could pass from lofty station to agricultural absorption without suspicion. Altho, for example, could exchange the leadership of the house of commons for the cultivation of short-horns without fear and without reproach, Washington, a born country gentleman, could stand down from the highest office and resume rural pursuits with dignity and satisfaction. But Napoleon in such guise would have deceived no one, least of all himself. His shepherds would have been suspicious of him, his pigsties would have been treated as a diplomatist, his oaks would have been probed for despatches. And in the midst of the byre would have been Napoleon, with some Poppleton in attendance, expected, meditating, and no doubt meditating very different things.

Continuing in the same line of thought, Lord Rosebery refers to other examples of great rulers or statesmen who voluntarily or unconsciously found refuge in retirement. Among others, he cites Charles V., Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, who abdicated in 1555, and subsequently lived in the monastery of Yuste in Spain. This emperor, his retirement, at least learned from his horological experiences how futile were his efforts to compel men to think as he did in political and theological matters. Cardinal Wolsey, too, his period of retirement, drew a profitable moral from his tragic fall, and perhaps found truer peace than he had enjoyed when his full blown dignities clustered thickly over him. Mary Stuart, most tragic of all, had somewhat of the restless ambition and unquenchable hope which led his enemies to fear Napoleon, even in the days when his fortunes were at their worst. It is probably impossible for anyone now to understand fully the terror of Napoleon, which possessed all Europe. But making every allowance for this the

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## THE WESTMOUNT VOTE.

Montreal Gazette: The vote taken on Saturday on the bylaw empowering the council of Westmount to borrow \$25,000 with which to install a municipal electric light and incinerator plant was certainly decisive. Four proprietors out of every five voting favored the scheme, and their valuation was two and a half times that of the valuation of those who voted against it. The average valuation of those who voted in favor of the bylaw was \$690, and of those who voted against it \$150. The figures indicate that while many of the large property holders of the town voted against the bylaw, many others voted for it, and that the majority vote was, therefore, fairly representative of every interest. In this respect the Westmount council may well find reason for satisfaction in the result, representing as it does confidence on the part of the voters that a real gain and most to lose in the ability of the council to successfully carry out the proposed scheme. It will now become the duty of the council to see that this confidence is not betrayed. It will be necessary for it to constantly keep in mind that the newly municipalized service is to be of benefit to only a portion of the ratepayers and that, in consequence, he operated as the bylaw provides, on an absolutely self-supporting basis, or else it will represent taxation of the whole for the benefit of the part. It will be necessary for it to avoid that great weakness of municipal trading, the charging of expenditures on the behalf of other more or less closely related corporation accounts.

## POLITICAL NOTES.

Fergus, Dec. 5.—(Special).—A large attendance at the Liberal convention was held here to-day to nominate a candidate to represent East Wellington in the House of Commons. The full number of delegates, the full number appointed, were present. A strong feeling seemed to exist that the local man should be chosen to represent the riding, the present member being Hon. J. M. Gibson. A motion to make his nomination unanimous was not carried, when a ballot was demanded it resulted in a tie between Mr. Gibson and Mr. Fergus. The result was declared as Gibson 75, McKinnon 40. Mr. Gibson's nomination was then made unanimous. Hon. Mr. Gibson thanked those present for the unanimous nomination, and promised to reply in a speech in the near future to comments made against him while at Fergus, general.

Fergus, Dec. 5.—(Special).—The Conservatives of East Wellington will meet here to-morrow to choose a candidate.

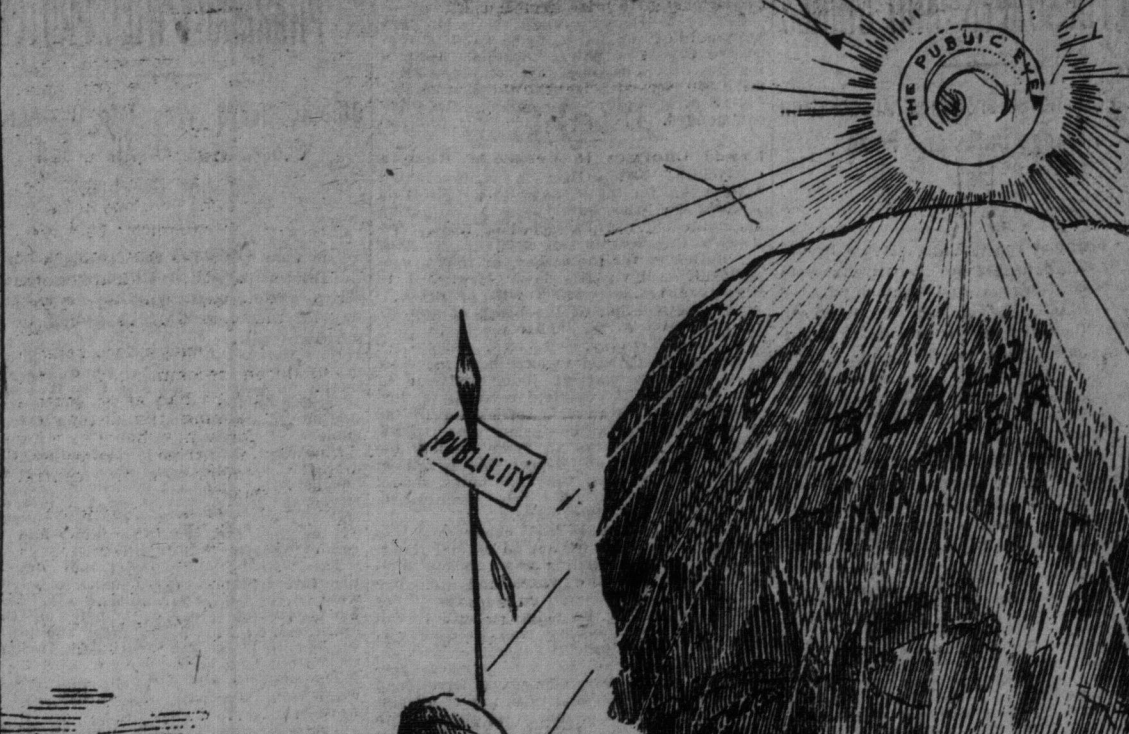
Winnipeg, Dec. 5.—(Special).—The Legislature of Manitoba will be opened to-morrow afternoon by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor McMillan. A royal salute will be fired by the battery and a guard of honor and escort will be furnished by the Canadian Mounted Rifles. It is understood that the object of the summoning of the legislature at this early date is to rectify clerical errors in the legislation concerning the Canadian Northern Railway bonds. The railway company asked a mortgage on the bonds a few weeks ago, but owing to the legislative errors the bonds are at present useless to the company.

Peterboro, Dec. 5.—(Special).—Speaking at an organization meeting for H. J. R. Williams, Liberal candidate, Hon. J. R. Stratton said that the Liberal must not underestimate the strength of the Conservative party in West Peterboro. He said that he (Stratton) had received very little support in the riding. He had personally received the support of many who could not vote for the Liberal, and who had supported him, some from personal, some from business motives. He said that he had never felt that the 1200 majority received at the last election was an expression of very real opinion. It was very largely a vote of personal character.

Essex, Dec. 5.—The Liberals of South Essex held a meeting to-day to choose a candidate for the Ontario elections. John

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We satisfy the male portion of the house in everything they buy because, as in all our business, everything we sell is right—prices too. Besides we show to man an assortment such as is not excelled elsewhere and seldom equaled anywhere.

Men's furnishings are a strong feature here and the invitation's always open for a long visit—read this—Come to-morrow.



Men's Fine Silk and Satin Neckwear, in the wide derby, latest patterns and colorings, best finish, satin lined, regular 50c. ..... .25

Men's Fine Colorful Cambric Shirts, open front, laundried, bosom, separate link cuffs or cuffs attached (also negligee style, sizes 15 and 16-1/2), latest patterns in stripes and figures in light, medium and dark colors, all sizes 14 to 17-1/2; regular prices 75c to \$1.00, Wednesday ..... .50

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A. Yes. Exactly the same.

(2) Did they ask the Conservative conference to pass resolutions of any kind for advanced temperance legislation?

A. The communication and request was sent to both conventions.

(3) When they found that the particular clause they favored (i.e. clause 3) in the resolution adopted by the Liberal convention was rejected on Thursday, did they on Friday by a deputation, or in any other way, submit such a resolution to the Conservative conference for their approval, and if not, why not?

A. They did not ask either Liberal or Conservative conventions for what was contained in clause 3. They asked both conferences for legislation to abolish the bars and treating system, and for legislation carrying out generally the policy of the alliance. Both conventions took action, but the alliance as such had no part in either.

(4) How many members of the alliance, as the invitation was a general one to the public, attended the Conservative conference in order to improve their views on the Conservative party and secure their assent to advanced legislation?

A. There were members of the alliance at both conventions, members of the different parties, but the alliance, as such, had no representatives.

(5) How many members of the alliance spoke on this colorless resolution moved by Mr. George at the Conservative conference, and demanded advanced legislation?

A. This question is answered by the answer to No. 4.

Not New.

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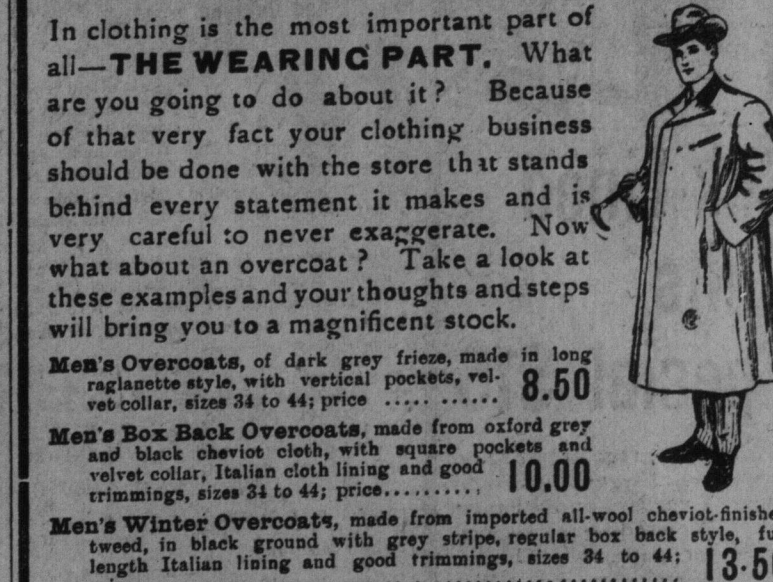
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and worked and wrote, it is not for us to question his existence or doubt his genius.

Shakespeare has long ceased to be a special English poet, altho he never was a greater Englishman. It is certainly surprising that a nation regarded as the embodiment of insular prejudice and more incapable than any other people of entering into the mind and spirit of races differing from themselves should yet have produced the only truly universal poet. Germany has annexed him without compunction, declaring him to be the only absolute exponent of the Germanic spirit. Even in France he has shown his way to recognition, despite his supreme indifference to all her literary men hold dear. It has been a sore struggle for the upholders of the classic drama to admit that any good can come out of romantic art, but Shakespeare's mastery of the human heart has proved too strong for the arbitrary rules in which French dramatists were cribbed, cabined and confined.

The memorial, it is said, is to be raised on a prominent site after the fashion of the Albert memorial in Kensington, or the Scott memorial in Edinburgh. Shakespeare deserves some more original monument, if it can be found, as it was, cannot be pronounced altogether a success. The Scott monument is a work of genius all the more remarkable that it was the work of a Scottish working mason, who like many of his countrymen found his way upward thru all hindrances and difficulties. No doubt the central idea, the Wizard of the North, surrounded by his own innumerable creations, is as appropriate to Shakespeare as to Scott, but the original preface in some unaccountable manner got incorporated into one of the later chapters of his work. But whatever the reason he has made an interesting and suggestive addition to a piece of literary craftsmanship which embodies a lot of research and independent judgment. Altho some of his obiter dicta elicited some deprecating criticism, chiefly from the friends of Sir Hudson Lowe, he has not seemed to modify them, and they must, therefore, be accepted as his last word on the seven years' captivity of the Man of Destiny.

## LORD ROSEBERY'S NAPOLEON.