

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Wm. Anderson.
S. W. Miller.
Robert Murray.
W. C. Winslow.

THE UNION ADVOCATE.

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NEWCASTLE, FEBRUARY 12, 1908.

CHEAPER SCHOOL BOOKS.

The only way by which the price of school books—acknowledged on all sides to be too high—can be permanently and materially reduced, is for the Government to take the business out of private hands and themselves publish the books and supply them direct to the pupils. As the Government has promised to make a thorough investigation of the whole question, we trust that the above plan will be adopted.

NO LET-UP IN BORROWING.

Mr. Hazen would promise to keep the "ordinary" expenditure within the revenue. But what about the extraordinary expenditure? If he will not guarantee that his party would not incur further debt for extraordinary purposes, what's the use of a change? Surely the electors will not be caught by mere destructive criticism which carries no guarantee of any improvement upon what he so ostentatiously condemns.

SOUR GRAPES.

Mr. Flemming illustrated how the money goes by ridiculing the expenditure of \$1,561 one night in 1905 to provide entertainment for Prince Louis, a relative of the king. Yet Mr. Flemming dared not say that his party would never make such use of the country's money. What's the use of kicking at what other men have done unless one has some better plan to offer? Why put Mr. Flemming in control of the finances, if the only change would be the payment of certain sums to different persons. But, the fact is, that while Mr. Flemming wanted to say something against the Government, he would not guarantee any action that might deprive his own friends of some future chance of hohobobbing with royalty. What a model democrat! Rather a case of sour grapes. The time may soon come when the royal family will have to pay their own bills, but Mr. Flemming is doing nothing to hasten it.

WOULD REWARD HIS OWN SUPPORTERS LIKEWISE.

In his speech here last week, Mr. J. D. Hazen volunteered the statement that all the newspapers that are supporting the Government in this contest are in receipt of printing patronage, and left his audience to infer that the prices paid were much too large for the service rendered. But Mr. Hazen made no promise that, in the event of his party being returned to power, this practice would be stopped. He did not say that no chances of making money would be thrown in the way of the journals who are favoring his cause. Were he as sincerely patriotic as he appears, and were the Government so extravagant as he claims, he should guarantee to effect a saving in the printing department. But this he does not do. The inference is plain that he is not sincere. Why trust such a man with the premiership?

THE OPPOSITION DIVIDED.

The turning down at the Opposition Convention of Mr. Thomas W. Fleet of Nelson, ex-warden, and one of the best known and most popular men, of Northumberland County, in favor of Mr. D. P. MacLachlan, with whom the up river people have little or no acquaintance, bids fair to ruin what small chance there may have been for an opposition victory on the Miramichi.

The delegates of Nelson and Derby and others went to the convention pledged to nominate Mr. Fleet, and they counted upon the support of the Ludlow, Blissfield and Blackville contingents. These latter, however, were held up by a railway accident, and could not reach the Convention in time. Instead of postponing the meeting until they could arrive the manipulators of the convention went on, with the result that the nomination for fourth place on the ticket, of which Mr. Fleet's friends felt sure and would have been sure had the men of the western parishes been present, went by a narrow majority to Mr. MacLachlan.

Messrs. J. W. Vanderbeck and Wm. Bryenton, who have been bulwarks of the Opposition in Derby, naturally feel very sore over the unceremonious brushing aside of the candidate they nominated; and their feelings are shared by many more, who bitterly resent the successful attempts of one or two individuals to stampede the convention in favor of the mayor of Chatham. There will be no Opposition walkover in Nelson, Derby and the other up river parishes, as many of the former friends of the opposition in that section will vote the government ticket or stay away from the polls. It does not pay for delegates who represent only part of the county to refuse to carry into effect the wishes of the rank and file of the party.

THE POLITICAL REVOLUTION IN BRITAIN.

For centuries the political contests of Great Britain have been duels between the great Conservative and Liberal parties, victory slowly but surely inclining towards the latter organization.

The Conservatives represented the great landholding class who by military force or parliamentary fraud had managed to obtain possession of most of the wealth of the country and were determined to keep the lower classes in ignorance and every body but themselves deprived of political influence.

The Liberals, largely composed of middle class merchants and manufacturers, agitated for greater power for the House of Commons and the extension of the franchise to the middle class, and finally to the whole body of citizens, hoping that the lower classes would support them against the Conservatives. This hope has been realized, and the Conservatives in the House of Commons have been thrown back into a hopeless minority.

But the working men soon found out that their interests were receiving scant attention from the Liberal leaders; and independent candidates—some merely Trades-Unionist, or Laborite; some Socialist, took the field. In the election of 1900, one Socialist, and some dozen Laborites were elected. In 1906, eighteen or twenty Socialists and some forty or fifty Laborites entered the House of Commons, and one Laborite was given a seat in the cabinet. Since then the Socialists have captured several new seats at bye-elections, and the Labor party has more and more brought itself into line with Socialist principles, namely, the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth in which the public shall own and operate in its own interests all the means of production (land, factories, etc.) distribution (railways shipping, telegraphs, telephones, etc.) and exchange (coinage and currency).

The great labor convention at Hull last month declared emphatically in

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favor of Socialism pure and simple instead of the half way measures hitherto endorsed by most of the Labor representatives. A million men were represented at this convention; and half a million more belong to the amalgamated Miners' Associations, which are negotiating for union with the Central Labor Federation which adopted the sweeping collectivist resolutions. Next general elections may apportion several hundred of the 670 seats to the rapidly growing Socialist party.

The present British government is intensely radical, and many of its most important measures, such as the Small Holdings Act for England, which passed the upper house; a similar Act for Scotland, and the Education Bill, which were thrown out; and the legislation re old age pensions and the liquor traffic which will be introduced this session, are decidedly Socialistic, and evidently intended to gain or keep the labor vote. It is altogether likely that the government will seek to establish as friendly relations with the powerful new factor in British politics as it has lately had with the Laborite members. If successful in this, the Liberal party as an organization will rapidly disintegrate, its more progressive followers becoming out and out Socialists, and the others falling back into the ranks of the Conservative party, which will doubtless appropriate the name of "Liberal" to itself.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Why can't Messrs. Hazen and Flemming dish up the same set of figures?

We wonder how the Opposition relish the revelation of the "pistol to your head" method in Kings Co. and that from the party professing all the virtues Dr. Pearson refused to be bribed for the honour (?) of having his name on the Hazen ticket. A thousand dollars was too much to pay to go down to defeat.

Between the statements of Mr. Hazen and Mr. Flemming, as to the debt of the Province there is a wide difference. Mr. Hazen is the leader of the Opposition and Mr. Flemming has always spoken as the financial critic of the Opposition. Evidently the Opposition are deficient in men of financial calibre. Mr. Hazen, who we suppose is the official financial critic of the Opposition, places the debt at \$3,780,340. Which statement are the people to believe? Perhaps the Opposition members from Nova Scotia should throw some light on the question. At any rate they might try to extricate Messrs. Hazen and Flemming from their tangle.

The people of this province have been at a loss to understand Mr. Hazen's reluctance to accept the Premier's offer to submit the dispute re the Provincial accounts to an examination by experts. They had reached the conclusion that he had no faith in the charges which he himself launched against the government. Mr. Robinson has thrown a bomb into the Opposition courts by engaging a firm of expert accountants in Toronto, recommended to him by the Bank of Montreal. They are to go to work at once upon the books and accounts of the Province. This report is to be placed before the electors of the Province at once. This is the only way in which the electors will be able to unite as to the truthfulness or groundlessness of the charges brought against the government. Whether insinuations against the experts will be thrown by the Opposition remains to be seen. Anyhow either Mr. Hazen or the Premier will be discredited.

The chances are that the Opposition will have to choose another leader—i. e., if there is any Opposition to lead in the next election. The probabilities are that Simony County electors will make choice of others than Messrs. Hazen and Gladier to represent them from the third day of March.

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ENFORCING SABBATH LAW IN EARNEST.

WINNIPEG, Saturday. — A curious state of things has been caused by the sensational summoning of 1,500 persons by the city police for alleged infractions of the Lord's Day act. Goaded by the taunts of the Sabbath-keepers and worried by the announcement by the Attorney-General of Manitoba that the police of Winnipeg would not assist him in carrying out the laws of the land, Chief McRae and his sergeants did this thing on Sunday, and now the courts will be blocked for months if the matter is proceeded with.

The vastness of the task has even staggered the Attorney-General, and he has made no definite announcement as to the furtherance of his plans beyond stating that no injustice will be done. The preacher, the undertaker, the milkman and the wretched reporter are safe from jail for a day or two yet.

In the meantime the proprietors of the newspapers have been driven to a fine frenzy by the persistent campaign of the Sabbath-keepers. They have loaded up the columns of the daily papers with manifestos, sensational sermons, letters to the editor, interviews, and so on, mostly emanating from the facile tongue and pen of one Rochester, a Rat Portage Methodist clergyman. The arrests on Sunday turned the scale against the famous collection plate alliance. The detention from their duties on Sunday of the newspaper men has at last exasperated the long-suffering editors, and a proposal is now on the tapis that the Sabbath Day Alliance, and with it all the churches of Winnipeg, be entirely dropped from the columns of their papers. The vast number of free ads, announcements, advertisements gratis, of church grab socials, frantic Lord Day's appeals, reports of sermons, etc., will be entirely dropped from the columns. It is anticipated that this will give on ordinary days three more columns of real news and advertisements, and save much work and wages. On the Saturday editions it will save a whole page, and the work and expense incurred thereby will be pure profit to the papers.

It is said that on the publicity being stopped, which is the breath of life of the religious or any other lime-light agitation, toleration will again lift its head and the blind pig will be throttled. An anomalous phase of the affair was that the newspaper men were at the time writing "boost" sermons on the Alliance. The public seems to be in accord with the passive resistance proposition. The liberty of the subject was seriously endangered in Winnipeg on Sunday. In the meantime the churches of England and Rome and their flocks calmly and with mild surprise view the twentieth century version of driving the people to mass at the point of the sword.

ASIATIC PROBLEM.

Amended Natal Bill Passes Second Reading at Victoria, B. C.

VICTORIA, Saturday. — The government admitted in the House in a five-hour Natal Bill debate, which passed its second reading today, that unless the courts decide that the British Columbia Legislature has the constitutional right to pass legislation, the present bill could not apply to Japan-ese. The bill has a clause which the treaty makes necessary that the act will not apply to persons, the terms of whose entry into Canada are fixed by Dominion act. The Socialists have an amendment to strike the clause, but the act would still be in fatal conflict with the treaty. The amendment will not be accepted. The legislature intends to pass the present bill, which will, in any case, restrict the immigration of other Asiatics, should Ottawa not veto it; but it is doubtful if Lieutenant-Governor Deneham will assent.

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