

The Observer

VOL. XXXVIII

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1908

No. 6

BROME NOMINATION

Brome nomination passed off more or less peacefully considering all the circumstances. The largest crowd for the occasion gathered at Knowlton to hear the speakers. There were three candidates nominated Mr. Fisher was chosen by the Liberals; Mr. Olmstead by the Conservatives and myself was chosen by twenty-five electors of Brome County. After the usual formalities, Mr. Fisher arose and spoke in his usual style and declared that the Liberals had fought for the principles of 1896 and that under the Liberal régime, Canada had been marvellously prosperous. After Mr. Fisher's speech, Mr. Olmstead spoke for half-an-hour about the development of corruption, waste and extravagance under the Liberal régime. The third speaker was myself and we had a hard time of it as the subjects we were to discuss were very unpopular with the Fisheries Liberals. We repeated on the stand what The Observer readers have heard us discuss in The Observer. Mr. Fisher had not fought for the interests of the farmer; Mr. Fisher had not stood by the temperance cause; Mr. Fisher was prepared to let every other interest that would have money from the government, but the farmer was to have none. We dwelt on the question of tuberculosis in cattle and stated that nothing could be done to improve conditions for the farmers until Mr. Fisher was defeated. We dwelt upon the election corruption of Brome County, a subject all Brome electors are familiar with. Mr. Fisher, in reply, stated that we had insulted Brome, and should apologize. Brome County, to his knowledge was not corrupt.

Mr. Fisher in making this statement lost many supporters. The people of Brome County know that their County is corrupt. They know that their County has been corrupted for the purpose of electing Mr. Fisher and they are positive in their own minds that Mr. Fisher knows it to be corrupt. When therefore, Mr. Fisher stated that Brome County was not corrupt, his own followers were disgusted. His own followers do not mind receiving money for election purposes, but like all men of the hills, his followers like frank and open men. They hate a hypocrite and they became convinced in their own minds that they had caught their leader, whom they respected, in a disgusting exhibition of hypocrisy. After the meeting some of Mr. Fisher's strongest supporters came to us and told us that they were going to vote for us. Mr. Fisher's denial of Brome corruption had turned their votes against him.

ANTI-MILITARISM IN JAPAN

We learn from the Avenir du Tonkin, a paper of considerable circulation in the French Asiatic possessions, says the Literary Digest of New York, whose editor follows the course of events in the Far East with a great deal of attention, that the Japanese Army is honey-combed with discontent, and the nation at large is sick of the crushing load of militarism. The rank and file think their services in Manchuria and more recently in Korea have earned them furloughs for life. Says the editor of the Tonkin paper: "It is very significant to notice that in two Japanese regiments at least the men are deserting in squads and at frequent intervals. If well-informed Japanese are to be believed in their reports regarding the soldiers of the Sixty-second Regiment who recently fled from their quarters, it was bad treatment that drove the men to this extremity. And if the army is inclined to complain of the burden of military service, much more do the people utter energetic protests against the new taxes to meet the expenses of the last war. Their complaints are every day more emphatic. Crushing taxation, dwindling commerce, paralyzed industries, and an exorbitant budget form the burden of their lamentation. Such are the charges and recriminations which fill the newspapers from day to day."

According to the Tokyo Keio Gijika, the organ of social reform, "artisans are the kings of Japan." This newspaper observes: "In every country the future heroes

will be the artisans. The spirit of the times demands this. In former times they used to talk of great generals, great diplomats. That era is passed. Today it is intelligence that governs the world."

The spokesman of the party in Japan which demands that civil and industrial activities be developed and militarism kept in check is Mr. Nakano, president of the Chamber of Commerce at Tokyo. Complaining of the increased load of taxation which is overwhelming the nation, he says that "while the people ought to be relieved from 30,000,000 or 40,000,000 yen of taxation, what is being done? The sum is being increased and new duties invented."

There is the same tone of angry protest and complaint in the utterances of the Migako (Tokyo) and the Nihon of the same city. The latter compares Japan to the frog of the fable. Japan is so inflating herself with militarism that she is doomed to burst. Mr. Ebara Soroku, a well-known Japanese publisher, in a speech before the Chamber of Commerce, exclaims: "An enormous debt, an alarming budget, new taxes, but no sign of any serious efforts to increase the resources of the country! On the other hand, thousands of workmen are employed in the barracks; the same number in the naval shipyards. Each day sees the laying down of a new ship-of-war. The consequence is we have no schools to take in scholars, and no ports appropriated to trade. Of course in time of war we are a first-class Power; but in time of peace we are no such thing."

Commenting on these expressions of what it terms "the Japanese anti-militaristic crisis" the Tour du Monde, a Paris weekly of interest and intelligence, remarks: "The Empire of the Rising Sun has been anxious to taste of glory. Japan now begins to realize how much that fickle and capricious goddess costs if she is to be retained as a follower of the colors. Perhaps this new experience will teach the subjects of the Mikado to show themselves less arrogant, less exasperating, and to abstain from preaching rebellion to neighboring peoples whose ruin they are meditating under the pretense of accomplishing their emancipation."

A Great Blessing

"It would be the greatest blessing in life that could be conferred upon our institutions, if in every one of the two hundred and fifteen constituencies of Canada there were a hundred men who did not care a button about party, and voted as they thought was right and proper in the interests of the country. Some of these in public life would get hurt, and it would not always work right for the machine, but it would influence those high in the councils of the nation to pursue a course that would command the respect of the best and truest elements in the country."—Hon. J. W. Longley, attorney-general of Nova Scotia.

Adopted Resolution

The Ontario Municipal Association, at its meeting in Toronto last month, adopted the following resolution:

"That the Ontario Legislature be requested to amend the Liquor License Act, making it contrary to said Act for the holder of a shop license in one municipality to establish an agency in or have an agent in another municipality canvass for or receive orders for intoxicating liquors."

Albert V. Grayson, the Socialist member of the house of commons from Yorkshire, who created a scene in the house by denouncing the members for not succoring the starving thousands on the streets of London, after which he was obliged to leave the house amid the cries of disapproval of his colleagues, has been suspended for the rest of the session.

Dan McGillicuddy of Calgary, editor of the Calgary News, has been bound to appear for trial at the supreme court Nov. 3rd, in the charge for criminal libel brought against him by Editor Edwards of the Eye Opener. The printer testified that the incriminating manuscript was in his hand writing.

THE CLASS CONSCIOUS FARMER

The farmers of the Dominion of Canada will not secure legislation in their own interest until they become conscious of their own interest as distinct from those of the manufacturer. When in Brome County recently, an elector informed us that the overruling powers never created a Liberal good enough for him to vote for. This farmer was a Conservative and had always voted the Conservative ticket. There are other farmers, just as blind to their own economic interests, who have voted the Liberal ticket. With the farmers thus divided into two hostile bodies, it is an easy thing for the Manufacturers' Association to swing their influence to one side or the other and by so doing to obtain all the political plums in return for its political support.

The Liberal government was elected for free trade. It has not reduced protective duties. According to the 1901 census, there were 14,650 factories representing an investment of \$477,000,000 while at the same time there were 477,833 farms with an investment of \$1,787,000,000. It seems strange that manufacturers with a quarter of the interests of the farmers should get everything and the farmers should get little. It simply means that the farmers are divided against themselves while the manufacturers work together against the farmers to the detriment of the farming community.

SOME OF THE PLUMS

The farmers are told to be patriotic and support home industry. Many farmers follow this advice and think that they are patriotic when they pay great sums for their plows, their clothing and other manufactured necessities of this twentieth century. The manufacturers, on the other hand, see to it that they themselves do not support home industries. Plows are protected to the extent of twenty per cent. The farmers if they desire to get pig iron must pay duty. The manufacturers, however, do not have to pay duty on pig iron. They can get their pig iron duty free from the United States. The pig iron manufacturers do not object to this state of affairs, because they can put their hand directly into the public treasury and pull out millions of money in the shape of bounties. The Hamilton Steel & Iron Company receive government bounties to the extent of fourteen per cent on its capital investment. During the first few years, the four Ontario iron works (Deseronto, Algoma, Midland and Hamilton) received bounties to the extent of \$1,347,139.31, or over seventy-five per cent of their total wage bill.

The farmers must learn to combine and get a Minister of Agriculture strong enough to fight for their interests whether under a Liberal or Conservative régime.

A MAN WITHOUT INFLUENCE

Mr. Fisher is a man without influence. In the Cabinet he is presumed to represent the farming interests of Canada. At Ottawa, however, his word has little weight. He has not had the force of character to carry out any reforms to amount to anything with regard to farming interests. The cheese and butter sellers have long desired an official weigher in Montreal. Mr. Fisher has not been able to accommodate them. The farmers have wanted some compensation for diseased cattle. Mr. Fisher has not been able to give it to them. If he ever made the demand to colleagues for money for this proposition, they have evidently turned him down plump and he has taken the rebuff meekly. The manufacturers' association, the railroads, the steel industry, can go to Ottawa and get what they want. The Minister of Agriculture is put away in a corner as it were, and given a few dollars to play with just to keep him happy. The farmers of Brome County may like Mr. Fisher personally, but they are coming to see that a weak man like Mr. Fisher cannot protect their interests as they should be protected. Mr. Fisher is likely to lose his seat in Parliament from Brome County.

PROHIBITION SET BACK

Ambassador Bryce recently declared that democracies need leaders. When a country is ruled by the representative system, the people choose certain leaders to carry out certain reforms. A well defined public opinion is slow in forming and it requires tremendous energy to crystallize a reform movement into the election of a member of parliament against the self interest of capitalized iniquity. If a member of Parliament thus elected turns traitor, and refused to live up to his election promises in the House of Commons, the movement suffers a serious set back. This is what has occurred in Brome County. Mr. Fisher was elected in 1896 upon his distinct promise to carry forward the temperance movement in the House of Commons. He has failed to carry out his promises in this direction and the prohibitory movement in Brome County has been set back a dozen years.

If Mr. Fisher is defeated in Brome County, an event we sincerely desire, he can blame nobody but himself for weakness he has shown on the temperance question.

DANGER IN POWER OF MONEY

James Bryce, Ambassador from Great Britain, lectured at Yale Saturday on "Self interest as a hindrance to good citizenship."

"Eighty years ago," he said, "political philosophers thought that government was best which governed least. This doctrine was deserted in practice long before it was abandoned. The change took place simultaneously in England and America, and we both adapt our theory to our practice now. The state has many functions to discharge, and it ought to interfere with the private citizen in many ways. The more a government puts its finger on the man's interest the more ground it gives him for taking part in government for private interests."

"There never was a time when politics were not tainted by selfish interests. Private interests still continue to prey on the people in general. They take the form of bribery, taxation, public works, expenses, franchises, the employment of labor by municipalities, and office holding. These public functions are at times managed for private interest, and each time to the detriment and danger of free government."

"The small and wealthy class who have private interests are active and influential, and their interests are usually paramount. Numerically the class is insignificant, but its methods are usually secret and endanger the stability of the State. The power of money is the root of all evil in government and is the real danger to democracy. The damage done by it is more than that done by apathy and indifference."

"The class who push their private interests to the front might be called the note-setting class. It is by this class that the tone for living is set throughout the country, and any evil influence by the class contaminates the stream at its source."

"It is highly creditable that the standard of public virtue is so high and that it is steadily rising. Once the standard is lowered it is hard to raise it again. Some great cause may stir men's hearts and they give their best and most disinterested service to their country for a time, but they fall back and allow selfish interests to control their actions. Publicity is a valuable engine to root out self-interest and install in its stead public interest, but prevention is better than cure, and there should be legislation and administration which will prevent men from getting rich through public life."

"The wars of the world have been of four kinds: between races; over religious subjects; for political power; and between classes to obtain power. The first three have passed or are passing away forever, and the wars of the future will be those over material possessions. Between the rich and the poor, revolutions of the poor at times have been justified."

"The condition of moderate fortunes is an ideal one, for it means that the selfish interests of the two classes will not sway large classes from the public interest. Nothing is to be more desired than that party lines should not

coincide with economic lines, and that as large a share and number of persons as possible should be willing and able to put aside selfish interests for public good.

"The prospects in America for a solution of its great economic questions without revolution or bloodshed are on the whole encouraging."—New York Times.

GEORGE E. FORD

Mr. Ford is deeply grateful for the reception he received at Bedford from the electors of Missisquoi County. The electors themselves were surprised at the way Mr. Ford could handle public questions. Both Mr. Ford and the electors were surprised and pleased at the general sympathy which existed between them.

Mr. Ford found the Conservatives gentlemen in every respect. He is sorry to say that the Liberal speakers otherwise.

Mr. Ford came out squarely for prohibition of the liquor traffic. He came out squarely in favor of reduced tariffs and he came out squarely for the principle that working men and farmers should send one of their own class to Parliament. Mr. Ford is bound in the future to go to Ottawa as a representative of Missisquoi County.

There are many men who are going to vote for Mr. Ford this time. The farmers, however, as yet are willing to be led by professional politicians. Mr. Ford means to awaken his own class to its own interests and when he does this the professional politician will have to go.

ELECTION FORECASTS

The Liberal newspapers are making the statement that Laurier will be returned with a majority of forty-four seats. The Conservative journals are predicting a victory for their party and fifteen majority. Elections are worse than a horse race for uncertainty of results and we are making no predictions. The country is certainly disgusted with the present crowd at Ottawa and it will be only by the expenditure of immense sums that the Liberal government will be returned to power.

The Liberals are relying upon three seats in the district of Bedford. They will do well if they get one. Sentiment has changed in the district of Bedford. Dan Meigs, Esq., has a hard fight in Missisquoi. The country wants young men in its House of Parliament.

Debt Rolling Up

The statement of revenue and expenditure for September and the first six months of the current fiscal year, is one of the most depressing documents issued by the finance department for some months. For the month alone the revenue showed a decrease of \$1,095,352, and expenditure, an increase of \$1,475,290. For the half year revenue decreased ten millions while expenditure increased \$4,000,000, plus four millions more on capital account. The debt increased in a month by \$4,354,314.

W. H. Shaw, Foster's opponent in North Toronto, is hinting that Foster has been corrupt, but dares make no open statement. The Liberals are endeavoring to run a campaign of slander, but have no materials to back them up in their charges.

A Sweetsburg lawyer at Bedford called farmer Ford an animal with long ears. Farmer Ford replied that he might have long ears, but he could not bray. The crowd agreed with Mr. Ford.

Laurier likes to spend money and cannot abide criticism on the methods of his spending. As if the country's money he is spending, the country has a perfect right to criticize.

THE OBSERVER and the Home Journal Canada's Leading Home Magazine, at \$1.25 per year. The Home Journal is a finely printed magazine, and after Dec. 1st will be worth \$1.00 per year. Get it while it is cheap.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Free trade will benefit the farmer. Mr. Fisher votes protection.

It took us four days to get our twenty-five names, but we got them.

Colchester tomatoes do not smell as sweet as they once did to the Ottawa Liberals.

Mr. Fisher is a man who has not the courage to go down to defeat for the sake of principle.

We believe in government by the plain people. Mr. Fisher believes in government by the Manufacturers.

We believe in purity in elections. Mr. Fisher believes in talking purity and allowing his elections to be run corruptly.

We believe in prohibition of the liquor traffic. Mr. Fisher believes in talking about prohibition but he does not believe in fighting for it.

Mr. Fisher at Knowlton declared that Brome County was not electorally corrupt. We said it was. Who was lying?

The Conservatives of Brome County are running an absolute clean election. This is more than can be said of the Liberals.

Pugsley refuses to hold joint meetings with his opponent Flemming. If Pugsley were not guilty he would not refuse to attend a joint debate.

Many Missisquoi electors were surprised at Mr. Ford's grasp of public questions. We flatter ourselves that we were the first to discover him.

Fifteen thousand Chicago children go to school hungry. The Roosevelt prosperity has been beneficial principally to the trusts.

R. L. Borden says that millions have been wasted. When Laurier hears this he replies: "Don't bother me with such trifles."

Mr. Geo. E. Ford made quite a speech at Bedford on nomination day. He may not get in this time but the people will hear from him four years from now.

Fowler and Carvell at Sussex, N. B., have been holding joint meetings. Both sides charged each other with grafting and the meeting broke up in disorder.

It is the general impression that Mr. Fisher will not be elected if the corruption funds do not get in their work. It is our opinion that Mr. Fisher will be defeated. The time comes when men refuse to be bought.

The farmers would like to have some assistance in stamping out tuberculosis from their herds. Mr. Fisher will not give them this assistance. Will the farmers of Brome crawl like whipped dogs and give Mr. Fisher their votes?

We believe that the farmers should have more than half a million dollars spent on them, particularly when the expenditure amounts to over a hundred million dollars. Mr. Fisher believes in letting the farmers have little money and lots of promises.

Mr. Fisher's elections have been corrupt. Mr. Fisher claims he knows nothing of the corruption. Mr. Fisher either willfully prevaricates or else believes what he says. If the latter is the case, Mr. Fisher is too simple a man to send to Ottawa to look after the interest of the farmer.