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NEWCASTLE, November 18th, 1908.

The spirit of independence mani-

fested at the Conservative Convention

yesterday is a healthy sign of the

times. Like the results of the recent

Dominion election, when dozens of

constituencies acted in a manner

altogether unforeseen, by the party

bosses, this convention showed that

the day has come, in many Counties,

when the people refuse to support any

man, no matter how honest, wise or

engaging he may be, in whose nomi-

nation they have not directly had a

part. The Local Government made

a serious mistake in not consulting

the rank and file of their workers as

to who should succeed Hon. Mr

Morrison. It is better in all cases to

consult the people. "Trust the people

the good and the bad, the wise and

the ignorant, with the gravest

questions, and in the end you

educate the race." Trouble lies ahead

for any man or party who neglects or

ignores the common people.

The Liberals of Northumberland

should not, on any condition, allow

this election to go by default. They

should, and most probably will, de-

cide, although the notice of the bye-

election has been so short, to put a

candidate of their own in the field

The growing unpopularity of the

Hazen government will throw into

the Liberal ranks many who voted

for the coalition candidates in March

It is time that coalition at the polls

should cease. Let every party put a

candidate in the field and test its

strength. The fact that one or a

dozen other parties are running

should have no bearing on the ques-

tion of contesting an election

DIFFICULTY

IN GOVERNING.

The general election in Newfound-

land has resulted in a tie—eighteen

to eighteen—which will render gov-

ernment by the Bond Ministry im-

possible unless the Premier, like

Andrew G. Blair, of New Brunswick,

in the days of the "Northumberland

Deal," succeeds in bringing over

several of the Opposition members, or

dissolves the house and persuades

several constituencies to change sides.

In Australia where there are three

political parties—Labor, Liberal and

Conservative—neither of which has

a majority in the House of Represen-

tatives, the Labor Party has just de-

feated the Deskin Ministry and as-

sumed the reins of government,

which, however, is cannot hold with-

out the assistance of at least a por-

tion of the members of one of the

other parties.

Germany has about fourteen parties,

none of which has a majority. The

several of the factions most alike in

principles combine en bloc and thus

carry on the government. France is

ruled by a bloc composed of Republi-

cans and Socialistic Radicals. The

British government party is a bloc

made up of Liberals, Radicals and

Labor-Liberals, and which, so far as

the Conservatives and Liberal-Union-

ists are concerned, is also supported

by the Irish party and the Socialists.

In New Zealand the Labor Party; in

the United States the Republicans; and

in Canada the Liberals, have a

clear majority over all other parties

combined.

A REMARKABLE WOMAN.

In the death of the Dowager Em-

press Tse Hsi An, which occurred

on the 15th instant, only a day after

the demise of Kuang Hsu, the nomi-

nal Emperor, China and the world

loses a most remarkable woman and

a most capable ruler of men.

Tse Hsi An was the beautiful

daughter of very poor parents and

was in early childhood sold as a slave.

On account of her beauty she finally

became the property of the Emperor

Haian Feng, who was so charmed not

only by her looks but by her great

intelligence that he took her as a

secondary wife, raising her to first

rank upon the birth of her first-born

son. At her husband's death she be-

came Regent of the Empire, and, no

matter who was Emperor, she was

the real ruler of China from 1861 till

the hour of her death. Although

only a woman—one of the sex whose

members are in all Christendom ex-

cept New Zealand, Australia, Color-

ado, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and

Finland, debarred from the right to

exercise their franchise at national

elections—she proved a more capable

ruler than China had experienced for

many years. Because of her peculiar

fitness to rule, she managed to main-

tain her supremacy over several

succeeding Emperors, never relin-

quishing her command until, at the

age of 74, death summoned her.

In the troublous days of 1861,

when the British and French armies

stormed the Chinese capital and

desecrated the graves of the dead to

teach China the superiority of western

civilization, it was Tse Hsi An who

effected the retreat of the royal house-

hold and saved the national records

from destruction. When the eight

nations attacked her a few years ago,

she again heroically guided the ship

of state. In the last few years, she

abolished the legal distinction between

Chinese and the ruling Manchu race,

prohibited foot binding, took steps

to have the opium traffic abolished by

1916, made the teaching of the

English language compulsory in the

public schools, and arranged for the

early introduction of constitutional

government.

When Tse Hsi An in China; Eliza-

beth, Ann, Victoria and other ladies

in Britain; and Catherine and other

Czarinas, and many other women too

numerous to mention have so greatly

distinguished themselves in positions

of public importance, on what ground

does any sensible person deny women

as a class a share in the political

rights now monopolized by men? The

day must soon come when women

everywhere will be recognized as the

political equals of their brothers.

Give them equal opportunities in the

political as well as in the industrial

world, and society will be raised to a

higher level. There should be no

legal disabilities imposed upon any

person because of his or her sex, race,

language or religion.

DEATH AT QUEBEC OF

SIR HENRY JOLY.

A Former Member of Sir Wilfrid's

Cabinet and Afterwards Gov-

ernor of British Columbia.

Quebec, Nov. 17.—The death took

place this morning of Sir Henry Joly

de Lotbiniere at the age of 70. He

has been in failing health for some

time and owing to his advanced years

his demise was not a surprise to

his friends. Since he retired from the

lieutenant governorship of British

Columbia a few years ago he has been

living a retired life at his country

seat, near this city, in summer, and in

this city in the winter.

The embryo statesman had just an-

nounced that he would rather be right

than be president.

Oh, no, he hastened to explain. I

referred to the presidency of a com-

pany that paid no salaries.

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