

The Weekly Times

Friday, Victoria, June 29, 1894.

HAIRD ON THE N. P.

One of the Conservative candidates for the Ontario legislature in the city of Toronto is Oliver A. Howard, a son of Sir William Howard and a prominent barrister. This gentleman's candidature has been the occasion for bringing forward a quotation from a book which he wrote a few years ago, entitled "The New Empire." In this book Mr. Howard wrote of protective tariff system, of which Sir John was the introducer into Canada, was originally an innovation that the hostile policy of the United States seemed to justify, and revenue necessities made imperative. But it is a policy of which it may be said, after 12 years' experience of its working in Canada, and more than twice as long of its prototype in the United States, that, while its merits as an economic measure may be disputable, of its potency as an engine of government there can be no doubt. As a channel of contribution to the parliamentary expenditure, as a means of coining and threatening individuals, classes and localities, it has proved itself a most effective and successful. Moreover the narrow, selfish spirit of protective laws, the natural selection, brings to the surface of the department minds that do little honor to an administration of a country. Some of the meanest transactions of which custom house officials have been shown to be capable have taken place on the Canadian border under the regime of the national system. A future generation, that can be quite sure, will review the whole custom law and practices of our day with amazement. Step by step the acts have been more stringent and more tyrannical. They abound in presumptions against innocence and the liberty of the subject. In their constant onus in favor of forfeitures and official oppressions they adopt the principles of modern Turkey. Such legislation would not have seemed strange in France under the old regime, or in England before the days of Hampden. But its existence is a degradation of the statute books of a free people. It is the greatest mark of relaxation of public spirit when a nation suffers the principles of liberty, and the safeguards of the public to be set aside for the sake of helping the government to collect revenue more easily. It is a testimony to the effect of the enslavement of party that majorities in successive parliaments should have become so completely deadened to a sense of their duties, as the guardians of the principles of individual freedom, as to pass and confirm these laws, as to bid the exchequer, almost without comment. An arrangement like this, coming from a man who is now prominent among the Conservative candidates in an election contest is rather significant. No Liberal could have written a more forcible condemnation of the "National" Policy, to which the Conservative government hang as to a sheet anchor. Mr. Howard is far from being alone among Conservatives in his objections to the rotten N. P.

THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

The government of Sir Oliver Mowat has been again approved by the people of Ontario, though its majority is much reduced. According to the latest returns up to the time of writing 50 straight supporters of the government have been returned, while the straight oppositionists number 27, and the Patrons of Industry 12. Two P. P. A. candidates are also reported elected. This leaves three districts unreported. Two ministers, Messrs. Harcourt and Hart, have been defeated, the former in Monck by a Patron and the latter in Kingston by an oppositionist. There will in all probability be disputes for some time to come over the classification of the members elect, but in the midst of the confusion at least one fact is certain, namely, that Sir Oliver Mowat will have a majority of six over all the opposition and independent groups combined. This is going on the assumption that the three remaining seats will return other than government supporters, and that the Patrons will be ready to combine with the regular opposition to oust the government. There is no reason to believe that they will be so inclined. The majority of the Patrons elected have been pronounced Liberals, and will be almost certain to support the government on its general policy and methods of administration. The Patrons differ radically from the government on only one point, the mode of appointing registrars, sheriffs and other officers; they have had no fault to find with the administration apart from this. It is therefore very unlikely that their representatives in the legislature will declare for the dismissal of the Mowat government and its replacement by a ministry from the present opposition. If they did so elect they could not carry out their wishes for the want of sufficient votes—that is, unless the present election returns are altered by subsequent developments. The P. P. A. cuts no figure, for it has only two representatives of its own, though it may have influenced the result in several of the ridings. Probably no person will feel more satisfied with this organization's want of success than Sir John Thompson himself. Sir Oliver Mowat may well feel gratified over this new victory, even though his forces have been cut down in the course of the struggle. The combination against him was peculiarly strong, and no available weapon, fair or unfair, was left unused by his opponents. The renewal of his lease of power at the end of 22 years' unbroken administration is such evidence of the re-

spect and confidence of the people as might well cause a glow in the heart of any statesman. Sir Oliver Mowat is now 74 years of age, so it is not likely that he will engage in another political contest. As to who will succeed him in the leadership there is no certainty, but it is safe to say that no one will keep the reins of power in his hands so long. It has been stated in the course of the contest that Mr. Meredith would retire from politics if unsuccessful this time, but we doubt whether this prediction will be fulfilled. There is not a man among his followers who would promise success as a leader.

IRREDUCIBLE PROMISES.

Election here and there are urged by government henchmen and government organs to vote for the Davis government because of the roads and bridges and other public works they are to get in return. We do not know that it is strictly accurate to describe this as an attempt to bribe the people with their own money, for as a matter of fact the people have not got the money. There are actually no funds in the treasury to pay for the extra works which are promised on behalf of the government. We have already shown that by Mr. Turner's own figures the government has pledged more than all the money available for the coming year for the ordinary expenditure of that year. That, however, is too favorable a showing for the government, since the finance minister included in his revenue estimates several sums in the shape of taxes and arrears which it is morally certain he will not get. He included also the two sums of borrowed money, namely, the \$80,000 remnant of the million dollar loan and the \$30,000 of sinking fund released by the conversion of bonds. Then he took no account of the trust funds already used during the year just closing, which the province may be called on to repay at any time. Taking all these facts into consideration, and letting Mr. Turner put the very best face he can on the state of affairs, it will be seen that the ordinary operations of the coming year will be sure to leave the province in a very bad financial hole. There would be a great deal more money spent than the finance minister can possibly reckon upon receiving in the ordinary way. To complicate the situation, the floods have come and caused a great deal of damage that must be repaired at once. Premier Davis has told the Ottawa people that the province can take care of all the relief work needed, and that itself will be no small burden, but the replacing of roads, bridges, etc., washed away by the floods will be much heavier. We have asked where all this money is to come from, since the treasury is worse than empty, and perhaps the premier or the finance minister, or both, will kindly explain this to the electors in the course of some of their campaign wanderings. Perhaps they will also explain where they are to find the funds to implement all the promises made on behalf of the government at various districts. Such promises would have been bad enough if the treasury had been full to overflowing, but the case is much worse when pledges of further expenditure are made in face of the fact that the available funds are already heavily overpledged.

PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT.

The Colonist talks of the "policy of progress and improvement" possessed by the government. Some people may be inclined to object to the description as inaccurate, but surely a little reflection will convince them of their mistake. It must be a policy of progress and improvement that has within the past few years resulted in the dissipation of all the revenue and a mint of borrowed money besides, leaving the treasury without sufficient funds to meet the obligations of the government. This at a time, too, when extraordinary calls are to be made on the treasury for unforeseen expenditure on repairs and relief rendered necessary by the floods. Perhaps it would not be inconsistent with the said policy for the government to explain where the extra money is to come from. Will they borrow it, or will they raise it by means of extra taxation? In any event the taxes are bound to go up, just when the people are asking for the abolition of the obnoxious mortgage tax. The borrowing of more money must involve an increase in the annual interest burden, which is already pretty heavy. The "policy of progress and improvement" also seems to include the wasting of thousands of dollars in the execution of public works (as witness the Vancouver World) and the construction of roads, bridges and wharves for the benefit of favored individuals. Further, it seems to mean the promising of extra expenditures to bribe voters, in face of the fact that there is no money to provide for such expenditures. If any one doubts that these are necessary features of a "policy of progress and improvement" he must be set down as wrongly constituted.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Competent judges hold the opinion that the amount of bonds guaranteed by the government for the Nakusp & Slocan railway was more than sufficient to build that road—left a large margin for profit, in fact. The government and its friends have strenuously maintained, however, that the amount was not quite sufficient to meet the cost of construction. Now it is rumored that—probably with the idea of supporting the government's contention—the company will ask for further government aid to meet the loss caused them by the floods at Slocan lake and Carpenter creek. If the Davis government happened to be successful in the election it is not unlikely that this

get company would come in for further favors.

There is one particularly bold bad man in this province, and his name is N. C. Schou. This abandoned character has actually the audacity to go up to East Kootenay and run against Col. Baker, whose fine feelings should have been spared the pain of a vulgar contest for his seat. It is very disagreeable also to observe that all the government organs have joined in a chorus of denunciation of Mr. Schou, thus giving him the very best sort of an advertisement and the highest recommendation possible to the electors of East Kootenay. It would be extremely satisfactory to find a handsome majority rolled up for Mr. Schou by the efforts of the organs to write him down.

WELL DIVIDE THEIR VOTES.

To the Editor: At the meeting of Scandinavian and government candidates (Mr. Braden being absent) recently in the M. C. A. rooms, the head walls of the hall were relieved by one or two startling legends. The motto, "Brains, Energy and Progress," caught the eye quicker and impressed itself more indelibly upon the logical mind of the hardy Scandinavian than the vain claims of the solicitation, "Vote for the government," which explained in four words the object of the meeting. Mr. Wahlberg, a sort of organizer for the government, addressed the meeting. He thought that the following President Cleveland, and now when a call for volunteers is made to divide the rich spoils in possession of the victorious general that has captured British Columbia he has to stand aside. Hence the motto. However, it is one thing to imagine you are leading on a band of sportsmen and another thing to be blown up by a mine.

Mr. Smith followed in a magnificent speech. He must have expended about a ton of dynamite facts and figures, and his imaginary followers, because he has not been seen since, and not a scrap of a follower can be found, barring the ladyrhythose man.

Nanaimo, June 26.—Mr. R. Smith had a successful meeting at Wellington on Saturday night and several who were present have ventured the opinion that he had taken place a week previously. Mr. Bryden would not have put his \$200 deposit.

The reception given to Dr. Walkom on Saturday night would discomfit almost any individual but the doctor is somewhat exceptional and has since asserted that the meeting was decidedly in the favor of the government. It has since leaked out that the cause of so much laughter which took place when the doctor rose to speak on Saturday night was on account of his somewhat elaborate attire. Usually the doctor possesses a flow of elegant language but when he called the audience jackasses it could hardly be said to be eloquence.

Premier Davis has stated that a government meeting will be held in the near future and it is questionable whether he will again make his appearance before a public audience in this city. The people do not look upon his august person with any too much favor as was clearly evinced when he attempted to occupy more than his allotted time on Saturday night.

Ashcroft, June 26.—The nominations made for Cariboo on the 22nd inst. are William Adams, S. A. Rogers and Hugh Watt, government; J. C. Kinchard and Robert McEwen, opposition. These will cause an individual fight between the government candidates, as but two members are to be elected for Cariboo.

Donald, June 26.—N. C. Schou has been nominated for Kootenay in opposition to Hon. Col. Baker.

Nanaimo, June 27.—The temperance party have decided to cast a solid vote for Keith, having unanimously decided the question at a recent meeting of that party. The next day the meeting was held to the electors and a public meeting will be held to-morrow night in the Y. M. C. A. rooms to which the opposition candidates have been invited.

Tully Joyce will address the electors of the south riding on Friday night. Mr. R. Smith left for Englishman's river this morning to be present at the government meeting which is to be addressed by Mr. Bryden. Another public meeting for the city will probably take place on Wednesday next.

Kamloops, June 27.—The nominations took place to-day for the north riding of Yale. G. B. Macdonald, Government, proposed by H. C. M. Bailey; second, Thomas Shaw; assentors, Andrew Noble, Thomas Carrington, J. B. Latremouille, Hugh McCutcheon, Opposition, proposed by John T. Edwards; second, T. W. Graham; assentors, J. Savages, Bartlett Newman and James Knuff.

For East Lillooet the nominations took place on Monday. The candidates are H. C. Freitas, Opposition, and D. A. Shoddy, Government.

J. L. Brodie, manager of the Standard Bank in Toronto, died last week. The big Liberal meeting held at the new Massey music hall in Toronto was a wild affair. The crowd was said by some to be largely composed of P. P. A. people as "bustard" Protestants. They had a band which played "The Protestant Boys" outside the hall, and by singing and shouting inside the hall for over an hour made it impossible for Mr. Blake to speak. Never before in the history of Toronto has there been such a meeting. For over two hours the great hall, packed with above four thousand orderly citizens, was given over largely to a dastardly group of two or three hundred persons, whose organized disturbance made itself felt with the chairman's opening words and culminated when Mr. Blake rose to speak. The hall was given over for a time to mob rule, which was quelled only with the arrival of a large force of police. They cleared the gallery, which was the principal scene of the disturbance. There were many fights in different parts of the hall.

Generally the more amiss a boy is the better he likes to run around with a shotgun.

THE CAMPAIGN.

The Nominations in North Yale and East Lillooet.

Ashcroft, June 26.—Mr. Jas. Wardle, of Hope, the government candidate for Yale, was invited to lay his views before the electors of Ashcroft and neighborhood at a public meeting. When he proceeded to do so it happened his views consisted principally of violently waving his fist, in the manner of some heroic captain of a struggling rearguard, who, thinking his general in secure possession of a captured town, and his imagination filled with ideas of rich booty, urges his followers on to be in time for the division. He begged the people of Ashcroft to sustain the present government, that was preparing to bestow great benefits on them. He warned them that the opposition party were all for themselves, thoroughly selfish, whilst it was a well known fact that the government party were not self-seeking, wanting nothing for themselves or friends, but were striving every nerve to help the settlers to become happy and prosperous, by opening to them the contents of the provincial treasury.

The electors were strangely apathetic under this appeal. There did not appear to be any rush to raid the public treasury at Ashcroft; some enemy of Mr. Wardle's must have whispered around that the public chest was empty. But it was not the electors that were disappointed, upon one gentleman a great effect had been produced; he was weeping tears of disappointment that his name was not on the list. He has been wasting precious years following President Cleveland, and now when a call for volunteers is made to divide the rich spoils in possession of the victorious general that has captured British Columbia he has to stand aside. Hence the motto. However, it is one thing to imagine you are leading on a band of sportsmen and another thing to be blown up by a mine.

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THE ONTARIO

Returns From a Number of Agencies are as follows:

The Protestant Protection Plays a Part.

Ottawa, June 27.—L...

turns from the province...

50 Liberals, 27 Conservatives...

and 2 P. P. A. members...

stipulations still in doubt...

following are the names...

so far as reported elect...

GOVERNMENT.

Algoma East, Jas. C. P. F.

Algoma West, Jas. C. P. F.

Brant South, Hon. A. B.

Brant North, G. A. Dana

Brace South, G. A. Dana

Brace North, W. J. McK

Essex South, W. J. McK

Essex North, James Clea

Grey, J. B. B. B. B. B.

Hamilton East, J. H. H.

Hamilton West, J. H. H.

Hastings East, T. Gibson

Hastings West, T. Gibson

Huron East, M. A. G.

Huron West, M. A. G.

Kenora East, Robert F.

Kenora West, Robert F.

Lambton East, W. H. H.

Lambton West, W. H. H.

Midland East, Hon. C.

Midland West, Hon. C.

Nipissing East, J. H. H.

Nipissing West, J. H. H.

Northumberland East, W. C.

Northumberland West, W. C.

Ontario East, J. H. H.

Ontario West, J. H. H.

Ottawa East, Geo. O. B.

Ottawa West, Geo. O. B.

Peel East, J. H. H.

Peel West, J. H. H.

Peterborough East, J. R. R.

Peterborough West, J. R. R.

Prescott East, J. H. H.

Prescott West, J. H. H.

Renfrew East, J. H. H.

Renfrew West, J. H. H.

Russell East, J. H. H.

Russell West, J. H. H.

Waterloo East, J. H. H.

Waterloo West, J. H. H.

Welland East, J. H. H.

Welland West, J. H. H.

Wellington East, J. H. H.

Wellington West, J. H. H.

Wentworth East, J. H. H.

Wentworth West, J. H. H.

York East, J. H. H.

York West, J. H. H.

YORK NORTH, E. J. D.

YORK SOUTH, E. J. D.

YORK WEST, E. J. D.

YORK EAST, E. J. D.

YORK NORTH, E. J. D.

YORK SOUTH, E. J. D.

YORK WEST, E. J. D.

YORK EAST, E. J. D.