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THE LEADING DAILY IN WESTERN ONTARIO  
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London, Friday, October 12.

## The Contest in the City—Let It Be Fair.

It is many years since there has been a fair contest in this city, or even reasonably so, making allowances for those whose enthusiasm exceeded their discretion. Notwithstanding this fact, we believe it is the desire of the respectable members of both parties that the contest should be fairly conducted, and we believe it can be if the leaders on both sides discountenance all that is unfair.

It is not necessary on either side to throw stones. For the sake of argument we might admit that questionable things have been done on both sides; and that some of the witnesses at the Beattie election trial touched bottom, and we would have the judgment of all shades of politicians with us. But for the future we hope the practices of the past will be abandoned and the acts themselves forgotten.

Both sides have again reached the best court of appeal—the people; and if the contention of the Liberals on that occasion, that the victory was won by fraud and clinched by perjury, is true, the electors can redress the wrong; can give the seat to the man justly receiving the largest number of votes. We believe that man will be the Liberal candidate.

If we look back over the London contests of the last 25 years, or, for that matter, 50 years, we will find the parties very evenly divided, except during a portion of the time Sir John Carling had large majorities. Prior to Sir John Carling's time the contests were between the late Judge John Wilson and Thomas Dixon, and it was always hard to tell who would win, the majorities ranging about sixty. Judge Wilson carried the riding as a Conservative, resigned, and contested it as a Reformer, and carried it again. The Reformers appear to have lapsed for a time, and until the late Col. John Walker became their candidate, they contested election after election with little success. From that time on, the older order of things again prevailed. Walker and Carling made a close and even fight, and Hyman and Carling kept up the pace. When Sir John Carling retired, there should have been a lull, during which Mr. Hyman could have held the seat as easily as Sir John Carling did in the sixties. But it had been decreed otherwise, and although not entitled to it, Mr. Beattie held the seat during the last term. Let there now be a fair appeal to the voters, and let them say whether they desire to maintain or abolish the present Dominion Administration.

## He Said and They Said.

We have not given the free trade we promised, they say. First of all, we never promised it, and five years ago I declared that I was a free trader in principle, but that free trade was impossible under existing circumstances, and that 50 years might pass before that idea could be realized. And yet the Conservatives say I have not given the country free trade, etc., and reproach me with the fact. That reproach might come from the free traders, and no free trader hopes for free trade from the Conservative party.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Sohmer Park.

## Pay of the Militia.

One very sensible reform which Gen. O'Grady, the new head of the militia forces in Canada, suggests is that there shall be a graduated scale of pay, the remuneration being increased as the experience of the militiamen is gained. By this means, the young men who enter the force would find additional incentive to remain in it longer than a year or two. In the past the large majority of the force who have annually gone up for drill have been "green." If we mistake not, the pay of the second and third year men in the old world militia is increased over that of the first year, and it works well.

## Laurier and Canadian unity.

Increase of Canadian trade in July and August, this year, \$7,200,000. The good times continue. The sensible electors are not going to vote to disturb the conditions that have so powerfully aided to make them so.

Among the other yarns that the Opposition papers are telling to discredit the Liberal Government is this one, brought forward by the Hamilton Times: "Galvanized barbed wire costs from \$4 to \$4.50 per hundred (pounds) more than in 1896." We have not taken the trouble to look up the price in 1896, but the price quoted in the Monetary Times of Oct. 5, 1900 is \$3 per hundred. If the Opposition papers tell the truth the farmers must have got their barbed wire in 1896 for nothing, with a cash bonus of \$1, to \$1.50 thrown in with every 100 pounds of wire they bought. Did they?

## Within a Month.

Within a month the electorate will have the opportunity, privilege and duty of deciding whether Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues are to carry on the good work they have begun, or whether Sir Charles Tupper and his friends have to try their hands at handling the affairs of the country. We do not think that there is much doubt in the matter. The voters do not need to be reminded of the old story of the man who sent for the doctor when he was well, and as a result of needless ministrations, grew sick, got worse and died. The people of Canada are sensible and content to let well enough alone. We do not mean to say that the government of the country has reached perfection and finality. That would be absurd in any case, as there is no perfection in this world, and no finality in politics. What we mean is that the Government has got lines laid down to continue the policy of internal expansion and imperial loyalty, which has marked their first few years of power, and it would be foolish, according to present prospects, to decline to renew their lease of power. Within a month, then, each elector must face this question, and come to a decision before the opportunity, the privilege and the duty pass away. Let every man remember that this is a duty. We have representative government, and each intelligent citizen has a share in the responsibility.

The polling comes at a convenient time for the farming community, after the harvest time and before winter sets in; so let every man take the trouble, slight as that is, to record his vote. Above all, let not friends of the Government give way to a false feeling of security. They have reason to be confident, but their confidence should show itself in recording every possible vote. The confidence that would lead a man to stay at home, instead of appearing at the polls, is not of the right kind. If the Government wins he can under such circumstances take no credit to himself; and in any case, a sensible man would feel after the opportunity had passed that he had failed of his duty.

We are glad, as we said before, that the unsettledness of conflict is to be short, and we feel sure that within a month Sir Wilfrid Laurier will have been sustained and have received a new lease of power.

Within a month, if Sir Charles Tupper has not found his programme, he will be able to postpone the search and give a little more time to the detailed study of cold storage and questions of a similar nature. In the higher politics, he has failed, and his so-called "mutual preference" is an absurdity. Within a month, we believe that the country will give him an answer in clear and unmistakable terms, by giving a majority for Laurier—in other words, for a reasonable imperialism, for preferential trade, and for a healthy development of the country's resources.

## Canada's Horses the Best.

Lieut.-Col. Steele of the Strathcona Horse writes home that Canadian horses have stood the test in South Africa remarkably well. They have turned out the best in the British army, thus giving the Dominion horse an advertisement that in the immediate future will be worth a great deal to our farmers and ranchers.

Canada did much for herself when her Government sent the two contingents to aid the Motherland in re-establishing law and order and British fair play in South Africa.

## Which Is the Stick?

The Montreal Star, in one of its latest cartoons shows its artist in a moment of high inspiration. He has actually hit upon such a novelty as to represent Sir Wilfrid Laurier "going up like a rocket and coming down like a stick." He thought of the old saying, and all there was to do was to make a picture of it and apply it to Laurier. But note, according to this Sir Wilfrid went up like a rocket blazing with promises in 1896, and he is to come down "like a burnt-out stick" in 1900. Just so; 1900 is now pretty well advanced, and Sir Wilfrid has not yet come down; and we are so blind that we cannot discover any signs of a sudden and disastrous descent. Four years is, moreover, rather a long time for a rocket to stay up, especially in the political firmament. And further, it occurs to us that the boot would fit the other leg much better. Sir Charles went up a few years ago. There was no mistake about it. He staked his reputation as a prophet on the fact that he saw quite clear. With prophetic eye he swept the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and led his hosts to glorious victory.

But what came of it? Surely he came down like a stick. His career was rocket-like; lots of sparks flying about, but no abiding substance or power. And today he is, if not an extinct volcano, a burnt-out stick. We do not think Sir Charles will fare any better in the pending contest. He has no real policy, no real power to awaken real enthusiasm. He is not equal to the task of regenerating and renewing his own party, and he must do that before he can carry the country. The Conservatives may whistle to keep their courage up, but they know well that it is not Laurier who is the burnt-out stick.

If you are in doubts as to whether you have a vote at the ensuing election, fill in the blank in another part of the Advertiser, and send it to this office, and you will be duly notified where to present yourself for registration.

## The World-Wide Rise in Prices.

One result of the war in South Africa, as indeed the inevitable result of war, no matter where it is fought, is that nearly every commodity consumed by the average household in Great Britain has gone up in price, and in sympathy with this advance, the price of these articles when exported abroad has also been advanced. We in Canada have felt this advance less than other outlying portions of the British Empire, thanks to our preferential tariff in favor of the products of the mother country. But for the fact that goods brought from Great Britain to Canada are subject to but two-thirds of the tax charged on goods brought from the United States and from other foreign countries, the cost to the consumer of all these imported necessities would have been considerably higher than it is. It stands to reason that if the duty on an article purchased in the United States is \$1, while that on a similar article brought in Great Britain is but 60¢ cents when laid down here, the cost of the British import will be lower than that from the United States, unless the United States dealer, for the purpose of getting into the market cuts off the 33½ cents on the dollar. In like manner, the price of the home-produced article must be lowered. The beneficial effect of the preference given to British goods required by Canadian consumers is thus demonstrated.

In Great Britain, the enhanced prices commanded by the necessities of life are causing much comment. The rise in the price of coal, for example, has been enormous. Last year the price was considered high when it ranged from 16s to 18s a ton; this year it is quoted at 24s to 26s per ton, which, considering the nearness of the source of supply, is very high. Gas, which is made from coal, has, of course, risen in price, in sympathy with the price of coal. An increase of 6d on the 1,000 feet is common in many towns. Bread has lately gone up in price, 1d at least being added to the price. Sugar, too, is costing more money, though in Great Britain, this necessity has always, in recent years, been low in price. About 2s has been added to the cost of the hundred weight within the last year. Coffee has been advanced by 3d per pound, and cocoa has risen nearly 11s per hundred weight. Tea has remained very steady in price, and as it is an article of universal consumption, this is a blessing; but fears are expressed that the disturbances in China may cause an increase in price in this commodity, too. However, tea culture has enormously increased in British territory in recent years, and the world is not nearly so dependent on China for its supplies as was formerly the case. Fruit is up all round. Currants, owing to a short crop, have doubled in price since last year, and raisins now cost 7s more per cwt. Canned salmon, owing to the great shortage in the catch on the Pacific coast has also risen greatly in price. House furnishings have participated in the general advance, the rise in linoleum and waxcloth being especially marked. Matrimonies, even more than the male head of the house must have observed how the charge for clothing is growing. The cost of clothing of all kinds has gone up, but especially those into which wool enters. The rise in the price of wool is put at 20 per cent. Underclothing, women's dresses, and babies' clothes have all advanced. Leather has also been rising of late, and though prices are keenly out in the boot and shoe trade, footwear has been dearer for months back, and threatens to become more so as time passes. The British railway companies, too, asserting that the general increase in their supplies rendered it necessary have made a general increase in their passenger fares. It is fortunate that work is so plentiful, and wages fair, or it would be pretty severe on the masses. In this country, as we have pointed out, the world-wide increase in prices of commodities has not made itself felt to any great extent, partly owing to the greatly increased prosperity of the people, and partly owing to the arrangement of our tariff, under which the very heavy specific duties collected by the late Government have been abolished and a tariff preference in favor of Great Britain, to the extent of one-third, has been put in force.

Canada is well satisfied with Laurier.

Liberalism is always a winner in a short campaign in London.

Let no friend of good government be left unregistered in the ensuing registration.

Canada's trade for July and August, 1900, is \$7,000,000 greater than for the same months in 1899, and \$20,000,000 greater than for the same months in 1898.

"The Man Who Turns Back" has now gone back on the N. P., and is keeping the apologists for that idiot busy apologizing and trying to explain away his eccentricities.

The young men will vote for the Government candidates in the ensuing election. They would have no votes under the old system that disfranchised thousands of the flower of the young manhood of the land.

The United States elections take place on Nov. 6; those of Canada on Nov. 7, and the Newfoundlanders have a general election on Nov. 8. Thus the people will have their say in the whole of North America. It is generally conceded that there will be no change of government in either Canada or the United States.

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Boys' and Youths' School Boots, cordovan and calf, at from \$1 to \$2.

## Men's Trousers Special.

Fine All-Wool Tweed Pants with top and hip pockets, seams all well stayed, neat dark gray stripes, also heavy weight, plain heather, brown and Oxford gray shades, all sizes, 32 to 40. On sale Saturday at.....\$1 50

Boys' Vestee Suits, fine clay twill serge with braid trimmed sailor collars and vestee, also fine dark gray and the new green shade tweed with fancy vestee and sailor collars, also wide, fancy trimmed lapel collars, vestees and knickers. On Saturday at.....\$3 50

Men's Overcoats for fall and early winter wear, medium weight beaver, also herring bone whiphcord, wide facings, all sizes. Saturday.....\$10 00

Boys' Three-Piece Suits in all sizes, 28 to 33, fine navy serge, special Italian cloth linings, heavy silesia sleeve linings, in single and double breasted styles, tailoring and workmanship up to the highest standard of perfection. Saturday special price.....\$4 50

Men's Black Cheviot Overcoats in single and double breasted, with silk velvet collars, the new shape. Saturday.....\$6 50 and \$8 75

Men's special made fleece lined underwear with soft, pure wool fleecing, in blue and brown with stripe, all sizes, 32 to 44. Saturday special each.....50c

Workingmen's Top Shirts, dark gray, knitted shirts, special weight. Special price for Saturday.....50c

Men's All-Wool Socks, mid gray shade, with ribbed top, special weight, heel and toe. Saturday two pair, for.....25c

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## On the Side of Providence.

Here is a bright bit from Sir Wilfrid Laurier's pleasing speech at Action Vale in Quebec:

"Is it not true that there has never been a time in the life of any one of you when you were as prosperous as you are now? (Cheers.) Do you not sell your goods at better prices than ever? (Yes.) Do you not sell your butter at better prices than ever? (Yes.) Do your cattle fetch better prices? (Yes.) In every house there are bread in the cupboard, and meat in the larder, and money in the purse. Are there not? (Yes.) The Conservative leaders who hear us say that this is the work of Providence, Providence has done much no doubt. In fact, Providence has done all. But Providence has chosen us as its instruments, and if Providence has chosen us, should you reject us? (Cheers on laughter.) God helps those who help themselves. He has helped us, and we have not been idle."

## What Economy in Coal Means.

The strike among the anthracite coal miners, and the rise in the price of coal, already high enough in all conscience, brings to the front once more the question whether our domestic arrangements are such that we get the best possible value out of the quantity of coal that we now consume. Harper's Bazar, which has been discussing the subject, reaches the conclusion that if the average housewife knew political economy, as, indeed, many do, and all should, she would be conscience-stricken, and declare herself a miserably sinner because of the way she wastes fuel. Kitchen fires strong enough to run an engine broil the breakfast chop. The furnace is heaped with coal and forgotten until the house is unbearably heated; then windows and doors are thrown open to cool it off, and no one heeds that energy—heat—sufficient to work wonders in producing wealth is being cast to the winds. The same housewife who permits this wrong is sensitive to the fact that by her moral and intellectual acts the future of unborn generations is conditioned. She knows she has it in her power—the power of every individual—to increase or diminish the moral force of humanity. Is it not worth while remembering, too, that she has it in her power to increase or diminish the industrial force? The greatest single factor of industrial force is coal. The housewife who economizes coal does something more than save her husband's money. She is conserving for all humanity a necessary of life, on which, in the first instance, the bread and butter of present and future generations depend.

There is much truth in this criticism, which will, no doubt, suggest to householders generally the propriety of a reform being resolved on before the cold days set in. Too often is the care of the furnace and other fires left entirely to the tender mercies of the

hired man or hired girl, who may be entirely ignorant of the first principle that should govern the supply of heat for domestic use, and who may, in the course of a season, waste many dollars of hard-earned money that might be saved if a little intelligent supervision over their actions—and the disposal of the cinders—were exercised by the heads of the household.

The Toronto Telegram (Conservative) concedes a majority of from 8 to 10 to the Government in the election on Nov. 7. It will be much more, but this concession on the part of an opponent is significant.

It is spurious. Beware of it! The Weekly Sun says: "A statement headed 'Laurierism and Prices' credited to the Weekly Sun is going the rounds of the Canadian press. No such statement has appeared in this journal."

Business men are highly gratified that in fixing the length of the campaign the Government has been as careful of their interests as they have been of the general welfare of the country. A long campaign is always injurious to trade.

"Laurier is too British for me." So says Sir Charles Tupper.

Lord Strathcona, who has just come from Great Britain, says there is no hope in the near future of the British people consenting to revolutionize their trade policy, and tax any portion of the food supply which they procure abroad. It would, he said, raise the cry of dear corn and dear bread, and that no public man would now care to face.

It turns out that the reason why the word "labor" is spelt "labour" in the "Labour Gazette," now published by the Dominion Government, is because there is an order-in-council, passed by the last Government, by which the spelling of this and other words is fixed. In Great Britain "labor" is generally spelt with a "u." In the United States they have come to drop the "u" in this and other words as superfluous, and in Canada we have followed suit. We suppose the late Government, when by order-in-council it undertook to control the spelling of words at the Printing Bureau, was alarmed lest our spelling might become too

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much like that of our neighbors, just as former governments used every expedient to prevent the adoption of decimal currency, lest the replacing of pounds, shillings and pence by dollars and cents might result in annexation! Indeed, the Liberal party in the early 50's were denounced as Yankees in disguise because they favored the system of money now in force in preference to the old world one.

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