

THE WEST

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Call Another Convention

From the action of Dr. Cowan in coming out as an Independent Conservative it would appear that there must be a split in the Conservative party.

We confess that when J. K. McInnis was chosen as the standard bearer of the party at the convention held some time ago, that we did not agree that the wisest choice had been made.

There seems now to be no doubt but that there will be a general election this fall for the Dominion house and the time has arrived when the electors should size up the situation and bring their reason to play so that each may cast an intelligent vote.

The Issue

What is to decide an elector in coming to a conclusion? Are men to vote for party because they have voted for the same party before, or because their fathers before them voted for the same party?

Changes of governments come, not in this way, but because of the record of governments is not acceptable to the thinking people.

There was a division in the party and no matter if the party had taken the other course on this question, they were doomed to defeat on account of the loss of support they would have sustained by reason of the differences of opinion within the party, and that there was room for differences of opinion no one doubts.

A similar state of affairs obtains in Canada today, with the parties reversed. The Conservative party is united in condemnation of the Laurier administration of the public resources.

Of course the party organs of the Liberals are endeavoring to belaud this issue. They are endeavoring to draw the thoughts of the electors off this issue by reference to duties on woollen goods, the building of the G.T.P. railway etc.

Press Comment.

"The land for the settler," used to be the Liberal cry. Now it is the land for our friends.

William Trant will form a fourth party and be a candidate in the federal constituency of Regina.

"Let Laurier finish his work." Well really we didn't think things could get much worse, as far as the province is concerned.

In a recent issue of the Montreal Star, a correspondent writing over the signature of "The Doctor" gives the following as reasons for supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

"I will vote for honest Laurier because I like the sham and humbug of his past 'Honest administration.' "I love the odor of the scoundrels in high public places (smells that reek to heaven)."

"I like to see Laurier gather round him men with tawdry ideals, cheap characters, and elastic morals." "I like to hear of rich Liberal members getting richer through the 'Land Syndicates,' Timber Syndicates, 'Swollen Public Contracts,' etc.

"I like to hear of a 'Made-in-Canada' Ross Rifle, of a \$1 lease (99 years) Plains of Abraham lands to the Ross Rifle Company, of a \$3,000 dinner service to the Montcalm ice-breaker.

"I like the 'Spirit of Graft,' and 'Rake-off.' It should be taught in every Christian Canadian home.

"I like the 'Black Flag,' and I want to see it nailed to the mast for another five years."

Press Comments.

(Calgary Herald) Sir Wilfrid Laurier chose a good place to open his campaign. Sorel has about six or seven thousand people and at least five hundred of them are employed by Sir Wilfrid's government.

(Mail and Empire) Is this system to continue? Shall Laurier "finish his work"? Or shall graft be extinguished and restitution insisted upon? It is difficult to believe that any responsible citizen can support this wholesale conspiracy against the Public Treasury and against the settlers of the west.

(Qu'Appelle Progress) Such matters as paying a man \$42,000 for reforming the bookkeeping system of the marine and fisheries department—a few weeks' work, expending \$60,000 on a small steamer the Speedy, and then spending \$2,000 a month to run it, purchasing goods through party misdoers at a big advance on manufacturers' prices, these and numerous other instances may be given to show extravagance.

(Moose Jaw News)

The securing of a seat for the commissioner of education evidently is causing the government much bother. Once a man has won a seat in the legislature after a hard campaign he naturally does not like to make way for a stranger, even though the stranger may be essential to the welfare of the government.

his name and journalistic of timid nature cover before his stern, majestic eye. The Honorable the Minister has persuaded himself that he is a statesman, forgetting that no man reaches that high position until, after his death, the historians have considered in proper perspective his accomplishments.

Nor do the less important members of the dominant party in the House escape this infection. Though they sit in the uttermost back benches, though they do nothing but vote and bang their desks in applause or cry "oh, oh," at Oppositionists, or call with a wild intensity for "order," still they are excitedly following the move as slowly as the mills of the gods, the politician of this type imagines that they are inert.

This is no fancy picture. Eighteen years of rule had this unhappy effect upon the Conservative party in Ontario. Thirty-two years of office made the Liberal party in Ontario a crumbling wreck which went into dust at the first blast.

(Winnipeg Tribune) Just to illustrate how the government dealt with favorites in connection with the renewal of leases for coal lands, we will give one sample illustration which ought to suffice:

Take west half 4, 4p. 7, range 5, west of the 5th. Here is the record: Applied for by proxy entry, Dec. 23, 1900, name used, O. Gilmore, actual applicant A. J. Leitch, Feb. 1, 1901 Secretary of Department of Interior, writes to O. Gilmore "Upon receipt here within 30 days of ten dollars the half section will be reserved for a period of sixty days."

Secretary of War, Wright, Secretary of the Navy Metcalf, and other government officials witnessed the performance. The maximum height reached by Wright was 150 feet. As the machine was brought to the ground, August Post and Chas. Taylor, Wright's mechanics, pressed ahead to congratulate the navigator. They shook hands.

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count. Then the property was sold and the new purchaser settled with the government. We could give a score of instances exactly like this where A. J. Leitch was able to hold coal areas for periods of from 3 to 6 years in length on a paltry payment, while his neighbors were forced by the department to put up. One wonders how it happened that Leitch and his associates were treated with such exceptional favor, but the riddle is solved when the composition of the company known as Leitch Collieries, Ltd., is disclosed.

Great Aeroplane Flight. Washington, Sept. 10.—In a flight in his aeroplane at Fort Meyer yesterday afternoon, Orville Wright broke his own record made in the morning, by remaining in the air 62 minutes and 15 seconds.

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"Fifty-seven thirty-one," said Taylor. "As much as that?" said Wright, questioning. "Why if I had known we were that close to the hour, I would have stayed up the full time."



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