

# News from Ottawa

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each been elected for two constituencies are almost certain to be succeeded by Roman Catholics. The Methodists and Presbyterians are a tie with 46 each, whilst the Church of England has 45 adherents. There are five Baptists, 3 Lutherans, 2 Congregationalists, and one Quaker.

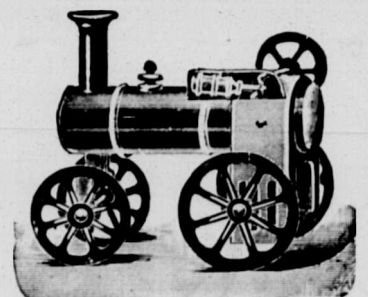
## Letting Contracts

There has been some criticism of the defeated government in awarding certain contracts, for which tenders had been called and received, before the people gave their verdict at the polls on September 21. One of the most important of these was the contract for the Grand Trunk Pacific terminal depot at Quebec. It has been freely declared in the Conservative press that there was graft in these contracts, but the ministers responsible deny this and point out that the Conservatives who will have a majority in the house are at liberty to make full inquiry into them. They assert that the money having been approved and voted by Parliament, and the works approved, it was in the best interests of the country to close up these business affairs, leaving the incoming ministers with no back work with which they would not be familiar. The letting of the Quebec contract to the firm which put in the lowest tender, the retired ministers declare, was but the finishing up of a business matter which has engaged the attention of the government for four years, and the various steps of which have been approved by the transportation and other business interests of the ancient capital. The re-opening of the matter by a new government, they say, would involve delay, and if the best interests of the public were served there would not be sufficient variation in the ultimate result to justify such delay. Nevertheless the incoming ministry will probably not be satisfied, and all contracts awarded subsequent to the date of the election will no doubt be made the subject of inquiry before the Public Accounts Committee.

## No Appointments Filled

When the Tupper government was beaten in 1896 the retiring ministry

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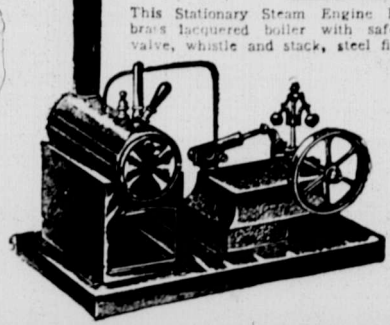


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appointed a considerable list of people to office. Lord Aberdeen who then occupied the post of Governor-General took exception to this procedure and refused to accept the recommendations of Sir Charles and his ministers. The matter was threshed out on the floor of Parliament and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers defended the course of the Governor-General. This of course established a precedent, and for the first time since Confederation a government has gone out of office without at least making an effort to fill all vacancies including Senatorships and judgeships. One appointment to which exception has been taken is that of Mr. Stanley Smith as postmaster of St. Catharines. The vacancy was due to the retirement of Postmaster Lovelace to become the Liberal candidate in Lincoln. Hon. H.S. Beland, who for a few brief weeks enjoyed the distinction of being Postmaster-General, explained that Mr. Smith had been in the service for thirty years; and that his appointment was a departmental promotion and not a political appointment.

## All Ready for the Duke

The capital has commenced to make ready for the arrival of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, brother of the late King Edward and uncle of the reigning sovereign, who will on Saturday, October 14, take up his abode at Government House as Governor-General of the Dominion. The principal ceremonies in connection with the arrival of the Duke will take place at Quebec where he will be met by the members of the new Borden administration. All the arrangements for the reception both at Quebec and Ottawa have been made by Hon. Chas. Murphy, the retired Secretary of State, and they will be carried out by the new ministers. On arrival of the Duke at Quebec, on October 13, the oath of office will be administered in the legislative buildings. There will be street illuminations, processions, dinners and receptions to fill in the time till midnight when His Royal Highness will board the train for Ottawa. Arriving here in the middle of the afternoon he will be formally welcomed on behalf of the Canadian government, and the civic authorities will present him with an address. The latter event will be attended with much ceremony and will be witnessed by one thousand and invited guests for whose accommodation an immense stand is now being erected in front of the Parliament buildings. The ceremony over, the Duke will drive direct to Rideau Hall, which will be his place of residence during his term of office, which is for two years only. While some additions and improvements have been made at Rideau Hall because of the coming of a member of the Royal family to Ottawa it is not anticipated that there will be much change in the way of doing things. The Duke has intimated that what has been good enough for former Governors-General will be quite good enough for him. It was proposed to have a continuous guard for

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