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THE CHATEAUGUAY BY-ELECTION.

ON October 11th, Mr. James Morris, Conservative Candidate, was returned in the Chateauguay, by-election by a majority of over 100. The official recount has not been made and estimates range from 100 to 144. Had the election been won by honorable means and on an appeal to the electorate by the Government upon its policies and record, the outcome might have been significant. But no such appeal was made, partly because the Government's record thus far is not one of which its followers care to say very much, and the Ministry is careful to be equally silent as to its policies. The result in Chateauguay was not the voice of Canada but the voice of Rogers and the party machine.

The Tribute of Blood.

Instead of the Prime Minister or any of his Cabinet making a clearcut pronouncement upon the Government's Naval policy, the Ministers carefully avoided going into the riding until the last hours of the contest. Meanwhile party followers and workers were sent and the familiar tactics of the Nationalist-Conservative alliance were employed. In speaking to French-Canadians, the Conservative candidate and his supporters said that Mr. Borden's proposed gift of \$35,000,000 was all that was intended, that his policy differed from Sir Wilfrid's in that it did not invoke any sacrifice of men or permanent assistance to Britain. In other words, the impression sought to be conveyed was that Sir Wilfrid was willing to do more for the Empire than Mr. Borden. In the English-speaking districts the electors were told that the \$35,000,000 was only a grant for immediate needs, for an "emergency" that still existed, and that it would be supplemented by a permanent policy. This game of duplicity was further worked by a careful distribution among the French, on the last two days of the contest, of a campaign sheet in the guise of a paper styled *L'Opinion*; and which under the heading: "The Two Naval Policies" set forth "Mr. Laurier's policy not only to give \$35,000,000 but two costly fleets, and men besides." **The Tribute of Blood** was the designation given to this last alleged feature of the Laurier policy, and extracts from speeches of Sir Wilfrid and Liberals in Parliament denouncing the sending of empty ships to Britain were quoted to convey the impression that this distinguished Sir Wilfrid's policy from Mr. Borden's.

Bribery and Corruption.

As for the rest, the campaign as waged by the Conservative party was mainly an appeal to local prejudices and jealousies, and an undisguised attempt to influence the constituency by promises of large public expenditures and other favors at the hands of the Administration. Secretly an effort was made on an unprecedented scale to corrupt the constituency by the use of money and whiskey.

Every device to handicap the Liberal candidate, the Honorable Sydney Fisher, was adopted. By heavy payments the exclusive use of all livery horses and conveyances by the Conservative party for the entire campaign, was obtained. Halls were bought up that Liberal meetings could not be held, and the specious cry of "outsider" was raised to foster local prejudices.

The Government candidate, Mr. Morris, and many of those who spoke on his behalf told the electors that important public works would be secured for the riding if he were returned. A dam on the Chateauguay river to prevent flooding in spring was actually commenced, despite the fact that Parliament has made no appropriation. The insidious influence of this open bribery may easily be imagined. A bridge across the St. Lawrence between Lachine and Caughnauga was among the other public works promised. *La Patrie*, the Conservative French organ in Montreal, devoted most of the front page of its issue of October 8th to an account of this costly project, publishing in this connection a plan of the St. Lawrence and adjoining parts of the County likely to be benefited, and a photograph of the style of bridge proposed. It was pointed out that this bridge would give the farmers of the county immediate access to the markets in Montreal, and save them the freight exactions of the C.P.R. There were the usual promises of good roads if the Conservative candidate won.

The electors were also given to understand that if Mr. Morris were returned the constituency of Chateauguay would be kept intact at the ensuing redistribution, but that it would lose its representation if the Government's candidate were defeated.

A Protest Entered.

But there is abundant evidence to show that even these shameful efforts would not have availed had the direct purchase of votes by money and whiskey not been resorted to on an unprecedented scale. Tangible evidence of this has been obtained to an appalling degree. The actual cash paid by machine workers to voters has been handed over to the Liberal Committee with affidavits from the men to whom it was given as an intended bribe, and bottles of whiskey were collected by the score in the wake of the Government machine workers. But this is a phase of the situation which may be well be left to the Courts, where it will be dealt with forthwith. The local Liberals have demanded a recount and will potest the election.

If Mr. Fisher's defeat serves to disclose to the people of Canada, the baneful influences and curse cast upon this Dominion by the introduction into Federal politics of the machine methods which have so blighted public morality in Manitoba, it will be worth a hundred victories to Liberalism and the cause of good Government in Canada.