

The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 22.

What Happened in London.

Some people profess to think that the defeat of Sir Adam Beck at the polls in London was a mysterious and inexplicable affair. The World had been giving notice for some time past that the Hearst administration was out for Sir Adam's scalp.

It had been fondly hoped, as the plenipotentiaries had reported, that Premier Hearst and his band of helpers would come back with a following of sixty at least. The next important thing to be done was to cut Sir Adam Beck's political throat. His successor was chosen and what would have happened to the Hyde, and have been a political romance, and possibly a municipal tragedy, had the plot come off as arranged.

If Sir Adam Beck could be defeated in London, and Sir William Hearst be strengthened in Queen's Park, the rest would be easy. So efforts were concentrated on London, where it was known that Sir Adam, like all prominent public men, had enemies, political and personal. The corporations were delighted to get into the great game of beating Beck. The Liberals of London who disliked Beck for his success in the "Tiser" and, seeing a better way, withdrew their candidate, Mr. Andrew Robson, in favor of a Labor candidate, Dr. S. J. Enson, whose antecedents and himself were almost wholly Grit. He is a medical doctor, and his assumption of labor interest is now to be proven.

The C.P.R. and G.T.R. workmen were instructed that they must work against and vote against Beck. The labor leaders, who went down from Toronto to speak for Beck were hissed off the platform and chased out of the car shops. Beck, the best friend labor has had in Ontario, was denounced as a capitalist and an enemy of labor, and the Bolshevik element in London acted in their usual way.

An order went forth from the Orange order in Toronto that Beck must be beaten. It was to be remembered that Hon. W. D. McPherson, who, when asked would he pledge himself to Beck, declined to do so on the ground that he was a member of the Orange order. On Thursday last the members met in London and agreed to carry out the commands.

The Conservative party machine was turned up in the usual way, and the faithful in London got their instructions. Beck was to be beaten.

All these various forces, the Liberals, the Bolsheviks, the Orangemen, the Conservatives, the foreigners were lined up to produce the desired effect, and for once it was accomplished.

But there was a reaction, and those who set the cars were caught in it. Mr. McPherson fell among the first. The Hearst administration has been cleaned out. There has been no material injury done to Hyde. Sir Adam Beck's policy has been sustained throughout the province, and he is ready to carry the radical plans, the Chippewa development, and the St. Lawrence installation to completion.

This is quite the finest episode in the election. And it has a fine moral for both the people and the politicians.

"The End of Pleasant Words."

Some notable examples of how not to do it have been removed by the blighting ballot, and the picturesque figure of the late member from Brockville furnishes a case in point. He had been acting as the plenipotentiary of the government, traveling about the province, and bringing back to Queen's Park all the news of the Premier's activities. He was not alone in this, of course, but he was such a gracious, suave and plausible emissary that he could not contain anything but the most agreeable intelligence, and Premier Hearst could not possibly resist his blandishments.

On a bluff, brusque parties visited the august head of the government, people such as the chiefs of the Toronto Ward Associations, and in bald terms informed Sir William what they knew to be facts, he waved them aside and sent for the chamber with the anovous looks from Brockville. He smoothed away all the disagreeable sensations the unwary ward presidents had aroused.

Mr. Donovan was at the fourth ward picnic last August at Niagara, and he exuded radiant dreams of the future, and cast a glamour over the Queenston Monument. On that occasion Mr. Donovan was permitted a glimpse of the wrath to come. "Toronto," he was told, "will defeat Hearst."

"We can do without Toronto," the guileful plenipotentiary replied, "and sweep the province." He was warned that if Toronto went against Premier Hearst it would be the end of all things for the administration. But he heeded not, and one more rosy-

colored report went in to Sir William Hearst to lure him to destruction and wreck the party.

Perhaps if Sir William had been a real judge of men and an expert politician he would have been less responsive to the silver locks and the bland manner, and paid more attention to the rough, downright persona who refused to prophesy smooth things. Had they been harkened to, even three months ago, a party convention would have been called and the Conservative party perhaps regenerated.

A Mistaken Suggestion.

A suggestion was made last night in a late edition of The Star, that devoted admirer, adherent and supporter of Sir William Hearst, that Sir Adam Beck be given a seat in Northeast Toronto, and be adopted as the leader of the Conservative party. This is exceedingly thoughtful of The Star, but seeing what befel Sir William Hearst thru following The Star's advice, we would recommend him to avoid it. The Star does not say whether it expects Hon. H. J. Cody or Captain Thompson to surrender his seat, but The Star would no doubt look upon the ex-archdeacon as the one to make the sacrifice. We credit The Star with good intentions, but we mistrust its judgment.

What would Sir Adam Beck do as leader of the Conservative party? The tenure of office of opposition leaders is somewhat precarious, especially when there are several positions. Perhaps The Star has visions of a \$5,000 allowance for each opposition leader: one for the Conservatives, one for the Liberals, one for the Labor men. This would tend to give government a popularity far beyond anything lately devised in the political world. Of course there would be competition. It is with recollection how adroitly Mr. Proudfoot snatched the prize away from Mr. Dewart, Poor Mr. Proudfoot has needed something to console him, but it is difficult to say how efficacious in healing the wounds of defeat an opposition leader's allowance can be. We do not believe that Sir Adam Beck could be consoled or tempted in this way, and we fear the position of an opposition leader would violate the conditions he has laid down of non-partisan operation of the Hydro-Electric Commission and its policies. As leader of a Conservative opposition Sir Adam would be at once and deeply in politics, the very thing, as he has said, that he wishes to escape.

Sir Adam as the leader of a fractionated party would only be one in a struggling crowd of politicians. Sir Adam stands today as the trustee of the interests of the municipalities of Ontario, in their venture in Hydro-Electric and Hydro radial development. No lesser position than this would be compatible with the responsibility he bears. He is not going to descend to the petty squabbling of rival leaders in politics from this level where no competition is possible, because no personal aims exist in connection with it. Sir Adam could scarcely agree to do a lesser service for Ontario while the opportunity of a greater service remained with him.

After Monday's performance what do you bet that the city council does not have a car line running on Mount Pleasant road before Jan. 1?

Now the question is: Will Major McBrian run for the board of control?

Sir Adam Beck was not defeated because he was not considered a benefactor of the people of the province, but because Sir William Hearst never had his name out of his mouth. The ordinary voter could not help getting the name of Lester (Malone and Long) into his head, and the man who made Hydro possible were arm in arm. This impression did not get around Sir Adam, but unfortunately Sir Adam did not talk so much nor so loud as Sir William.

It was nice to read in yesterday's papers that Thomas L. Church had advised Sir Adam Beck to run in Toronto. We wonder did he also advise him to run for the mayor's chair?

The man who gave the "votes to women" was the man who beat the man who claims the privilege—Mister W. P. Maclean versus Sir William Hearst.

"Into each life some rain must fall and some days must be dark and dreary." So let Fred Hamby cheer up. Maybe the Conservatives will come back some time.

Controller Robbins might try for the chief magistrate's job now. Failing that, there is still the Lieutenant-governor's to think about and hope for?

After looking around we feel safe in saying that the election was not so "dry" after all.

By the way, who is going to be chairman of all the royal commissions in the future? Because you know we simply must have our investigations, having been fed on them so long.

An Indiana farmer cutting down an old hickory tree the other day found a coat of arms in the trunk. It had evidently been there a long time as a newspaper article was dated July 1848. There was also an old powder horn such as hunters used long ago.

Books

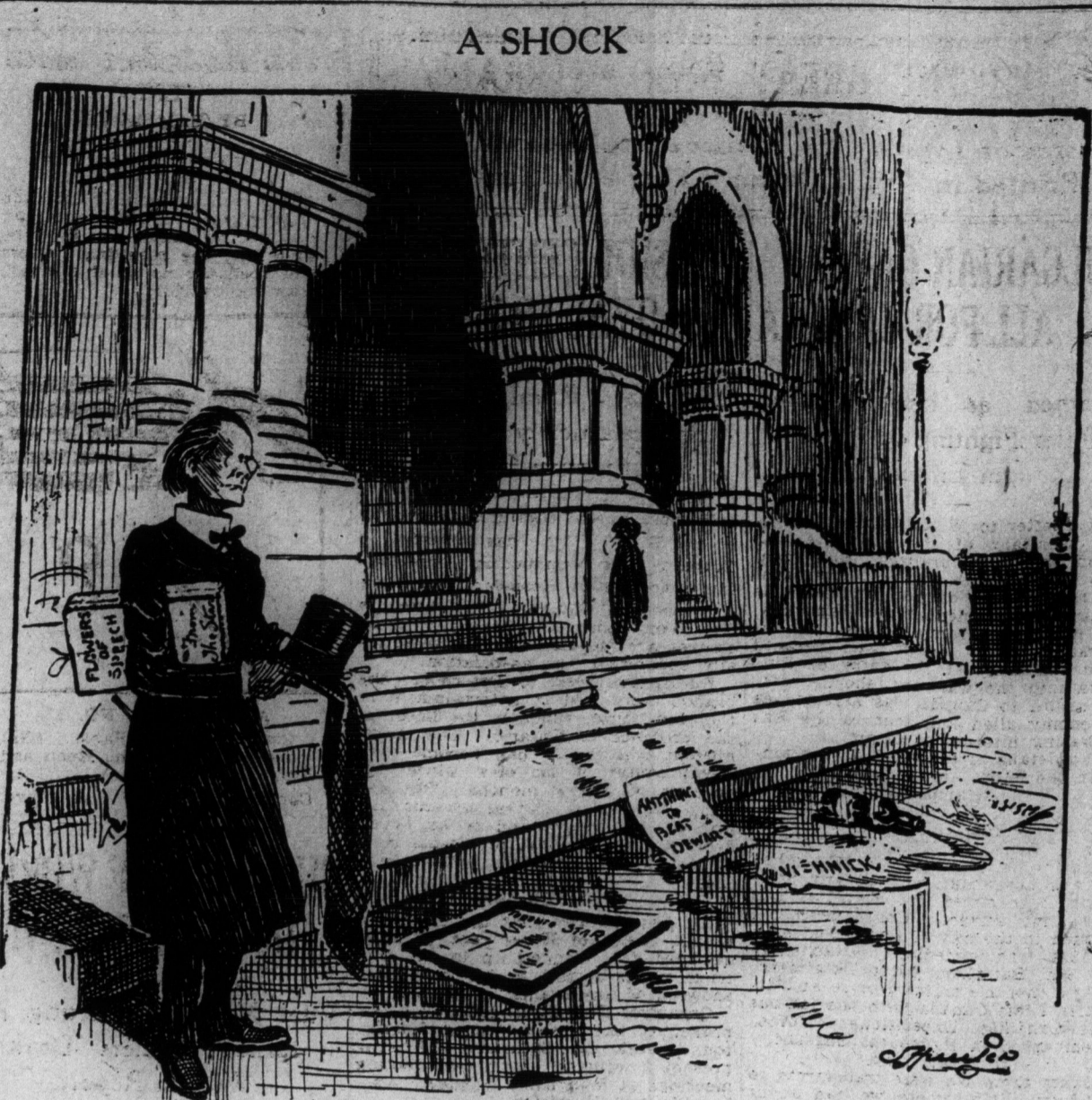
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Undertaker Atkinson: When I was first summoned I naturally thought it was only that man Dewart.

POLITICAL NOTES

Considerable theorizing in constitutional usage is being indulged in by way of political exercise after the election. For the present all that is required is to keep the facts in mind.

Up to this morning the U. F. O. has not been, strictly speaking, a political organization. The election returns have afforded some basis for the opinion among a section of the public that the farmers went into the election contented with a perfect political fighting machine.

No opinion could be more astray. In every riding contested by the U. F. O., as the World has frequently stated, the "farmers' battle" was a regular war. Help was given by the central organization when asked for; but the decision to enter a U.F.O. contestant was the choice of the farmers' standard bearer who matters left absolutely with the local clubs.

This was the great difficulty from first to last of the campaign in estimating the anticipated extent of the U. F. O. victory over the two old parties. There was no central machine controlling the wires and directing the general action.

The realization of a greater triumph than was expected confronts the U. F. O. with the necessity for taking prompt steps to organize the party in the legislative assembly in a regular way. Today probably the majority of the farmer members-elect to the fifteenth legislature of Ontario meet in Toronto to consider the preliminaries of parliamentary organization. It is not likely that a leader will be immediately chosen, but the selection of a leader of the party in the legislature cannot be long deferred. At the present time the farmers who sit as a party in the legislature do not know each other to any great extent, nor are they certain of their exact number.

Perhaps this is also true of the Liberal and Conservative parties; but these old parties have the advantage of complete organization thru their central committees.

The U. F. O. faces the task of organization after the fray. It is natural that the farmers should wait till they know their certain strength in numbers. This delay may be a premium and counts, at least the official announcement of election results. No change has been made in the law affecting returns from the polls by the returning officers.

Four returns are made within forty-eight hours and notice of returns which should be served at once cannot involve a delay of more than one week. The clerk of the crown in chancery, Arthur Sydes, will announce the result of the votes, including the referendum vote, within the ten days. No special provision appears in the law for the reopening of constituencies that may be vacated for one cause or another; and it is probable that no by-election will be held before the meeting of the assembly.

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A SHOCK

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