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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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The Bye-Elections Yesterday.

Bye-elections for the Ontario Legislature were held yesterday in four constituencies—West and East Elgin, South Brant and South Ontario. Of these three retained the same political complexion as before the contests. The one change has been in West Elgin, in which Mr. Macintosh seems to be behind by 21 votes. The chief turn-over occurred in St. Thomas, where the "floating" vote is necessarily larger than in the country districts, where Mr. Macintosh's popularity was again demonstrated. There is one deep cause for satisfaction: The Liberal party is thoroughly purged of the evil elements which intruded in the last campaign.

In West Elgin the contest was again close, Mr. Brower, Conservative, winning by about the same majority as before.

In Brantford a very able and energetic journalist has been elected by the handsome majority of 490. We have no doubt Mr. Preston will prove to be one of Mr. Ross' most capable supporters in the House. Perhaps the most significant and satisfactory feature of this victory is the substantial majority given Mr. Preston in the city of Brantford, which is a great manufacturing center. It is highly important that the new Premier finds his progressive policy so heartily appreciated alike by the manufacturers and employees of that thriving city.

In South Ontario the result is eminently satisfactory. Through local differences it seemed as if Mr. Dryden had lost some of his old prestige, but this has been splendidly restored, and the best Minister of Agriculture that Ontario has ever had returns triumphantly to his position as a great representative farmer, devoting all his energy and ability to the promotion of the agricultural interests in the Province.

Of course, Mr. Ross' friends would have been glad to have had an Elgin in their column, but one cannot have everything in this world. Counting noses, the popular majorities in yesterday's contests are as follows:

For Mr. Ross, in South Ontario and South Brant, about 800

For Mr. Whitney, in East and West Elgin, about 80

Not a bad showing, this.

Progress in Our Schools.

The interview with Mr. John Dearness, published in these columns Saturday, brought out some very instructive points in regard to educational progress during his own experience of 25 years as inspector of schools of East Middlesex. Among the developments noted by Mr. Dearness are these:

1. A very marked improvement in the professional qualifications of young teachers. When Mr. Dearness took office only 17 per cent of the teachers had had any professional training. The model school has changed all that.

2. Greater regularity of attendance. In 1874 the percentage of average attendance was 48; now it is 54.

3. The increased attention paid to junior classes. Mr. Dearness avers that on the average children in his inspectorate are as far advanced at the end of the first year of attendance as they were at the end of three years when he began inspecting.

4. Better sanitary conditions of schools and premises, though still below what could be wished.

5. Improvement of discipline and order, with amelioration of punishment. Whipping has decreased 90 per cent. To quote Mr. Dearness: "The teachers realize that the development of the pupils' self-control is an easier and better way of securing order and obedience than by external restraint, and incomparably superior as an education for citizenship."

6. Truancy has almost disappeared. What little there is occurs mostly in the seven school sections adjoining the city.

While Mr. Dearness is able to report so many advances, there is one evil which remains as great as ever, namely, the insecurity of the teachers' tenure of office. He asserts that the average length of the teacher's experience is less than it was a few years ago, and the average salary is lower now than it has been for 20 years. It seems that the teaching profession is so unremunerative that most of the young people, especially the young men, who go into it, merely use it as a stepping-stone to more profitable callings. This is no fault of the school system, much less of the teachers; but the responsibility rests with the tax-paying public, who do not sufficiently reward the profession, or treat it with the respect that is its due. This is perhaps more true of rural than of urban communities. In other particulars, however, there has been solid progress in educational conditions, as shown by Mr. Dearness' interesting review.

Hurtful to Manufacturers.

The Stratford Clothing Company, employing a considerable number of hands, intend moving to Toronto because they cannot obtain exemption from taxation in Stratford. It is not stated whether Toronto offers them this exemption, but certainly, under the recent law passed by the Legislature, the city has no right to do so without a vote of the ratepayers. The Stratford Herald, in discussing the case, passes some deserved strictures on the "bombs" and exemption evil, showing, as we have always contended, that the manufacturers are more the victims than the beneficiaries of the practice. As the Herald says:

"Whatever the city may do from motives of expediency, there is no question that exemptions are wrong in principle."

They convey pecuniary assistance to those who, in the majority of cases, least need it, and shift their responsibility for local taxation upon the general body of ratepayers, many of whom are already struggling under present burdens. The practice of exemptions also encourages industries to bid one town against another in foolish competition, the effect of which is unsettling upon business, and exerts an unhealthy effect upon prices, and taking the province over, may reduce the sum of success below the former level. If all factories would be content to seek no exemptions, all would have an equal show. It was to bring about this condition that the Legislature passed the anti-bonus statute, which checked the evil materially. But on one pretext or another the bonus is again seeking for toleration. The Legislature should take the subject in hand again, and limit the powers of exemption, as well as more frequently reject applications for special acts legalizing bonuses. We have reason to believe many manufacturers share these views, and only seek exemption because others do it, and they feel they must have the same advantages as their competitors."

Whitney must still wait.

The electors have given Mr. Ross a mandate to go ahead with his new policy.

Things have come to a pretty pass when British troops cannot venture out at night in their own territory without being corralled by Boers.

In the general elections of 1898 South Ontario and the two Elgins went Conservative, and South Brant went Liberal. Yesterday the Government went one better.

Government ownership of railways is evidently a strong card in Manitoba.—Ottawa Journal.

A strong card for election purposes, no doubt, but it will never be played by Hugh John Macdonald and his party.

Henri Turot, the Paris journalist, is being sent to the Philippines by the French Geographical Society to study American operations in the Philippines, predicted before a Paris audience last week that it would take 100,000 men ten years to "pacify" the islands. Is the wish father to the thought?

A bill will be introduced in Congress for the erection of a dam across Niagara River in order to raise the level of Lake Erie. But how would Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River be affected by it? Canada will have something to say about this project if our neighbors seriously entertain it.

Dover, England, has an electric railway company which will hereafter carry workmen during the stipulated hours at a fare of a half-penny, or one cent. It takes that action for the remarkable reason that in the past it has cleared on this part of its traffic \$10,000 per year at the full penny, or two-cent rate, and it considers that the reduced fare will yield the proper dividend on its bona fide investment.

At a meeting of the Canadian Club at Toronto, Mr. S. Morley Wickett, Ph. D., suggested as measures of municipal reform the adoption of a longer term of office, reducing the number of wards by one-half, the election of the board of control by general vote, departmental responsibilities and a system of periodical reports from all departments. These are good as far as they go. In very large centers of population there is some ground for representation by districts, but not in cities like London, Hamilton, Ottawa, or even Toronto.

A little over a year ago the business portion of the city of New Westminster was wiped out by fire, the loss in property and goods being over \$2,500,000. A little like that could not daunt western enterprise, and the annual report of the Board of Trade, which we have just received, shows that the city is rapidly recovering from the blow, and is as full of lively optimism as ever. The business blocks are springing up, and the buildings are much superior to the old ones. Population has also increased 400 in the past year. The city is to be congratulated on having a wide-awake Board of Trade.

The series of letters on the Canadian Doukhobor settlements, written for the Toronto Globe by "Lully Bernard" (Mrs. Fitzgibbon), have been reprinted in pamphlet form. The writer made a tour of the Doukhobor settlements in Northeast Assiniboia during the past summer, and became intimately acquainted with the new colonists. Her graphic descriptions have excited a compassionate interest in these primitive but noble people, who have so many elements of good citizenship. Their heroic efforts to establish homes for themselves in this free country and win an independent living from the soil, claim the practical sympathy of the Canadian people.

What Others Say.

The Big Congregation.

[London (England) Spectator.] Everybody attends the newspaper church.

An Ad. in Time.

[Hamilton Times.] In Christmas advertising and Christmas buying the old adage holds good: The early bird catches the worm.

The Horrors of War.

[Dundas Banner.] On the banks of the Modder River the Boers are singing that good old song, "Who Will Kaffir Modder Now?"

An Explanation Wanted.

[Hamilton Times.] Mr. Whitney says he would like to see the public school made "an independent substantive institution, and get a stepping stone to the high school." Mr. Whitney ought to talk plain English, and not give his hearers

riddles in gibberish. What does he mean by "making the education of the public schools complete in itself"? What does he call a "complete" education? Is Mr. Whitney dishonest, or simply stupid?

The Canadian Turkey.

[Toronto World.] Western Ontario will furnish 150,000 Christmas and New Year's turkeys for the British market this year. This is almost double the quantity shipped in 1898. But it is not one-fourth the quantity that might have been exported, if the birds were procurable.

A Pointer Taken.

[Toronto Telegram.] The German Empire need not now rise to remark that it does not propose to be mixed up in England's wars. It indicated some such feeling when the flying squadron took the liberty of cutting off Emperor Bill's correspondence with Oom Paul Kruger.

OUR FRUIT IN ENGLAND

Reported on by an English Expert, Sampson Morgan.

His Impressions of Sample Cases—A Very Encouraging Statement.

Sampson Morgan, the fruit expert of "Ingleside," Grove Park, Kent, England, has made a special report on Canadian apples, pears and peaches sent to Prof. J. Robertson, commissioner of Agriculture, Ottawa. The report is as follows:

I duly received the sample cases of Canadian apples and pears, and a box of peaches which you sent me, and as your representative for the distribution of the fruit in this country informed me that you would be pleased to have my opinion on same, I herewith send you a report which is disinterested, and with the utmost confidence. I am in a position to speak authoritatively upon this subject, as an expert from a market point of view, being the only fruit trade journalist who has, for just up to a quarter of a century, made choice fruit production, packing, and distribution a special study, that is, in the United Kingdom.

APPLES.

The apples were snowed, and when opened the fruit were found to be in prime condition. Not one was unsound. They were wrapped separately in paper, and had been packed in layers and in rows. A better style for good fruit could not possibly be conceived. The fruits were medium in size. Possibly a larger sample on our markets, though the quality was excellent, and I was very much struck with the altogether. The package was rather small for apples. When the parcel came to hand, there was a large supply of ordinary grown English apples on the market, and this would tend to affect prices. Still, for a large circle of buyers, the small package should form a good attraction, and I am sure that such fine eating apples, packed in these handy boxes, would secure a free sale directly their quality became known to the general public. I mean in the original package. I do not feel inclined to say absolutely that a bushel box would be better, but perhaps both sizes would prove advantageous to the trade generally.

PEARS.

Then as to the pears. They had been put up in the same size of box as the apples, and I am confident that each fruit had been wrapped in a small square of paper. They were absolutely sound and in grand condition. I kept some of these pears for two weeks, and they were still in the best condition. They were Beurre D'Anjou. From these samples it is clear that Canadian exporters can easily put high quality pears upon the English markets, and at the right time, too. I am satisfied that for quality, size, clearness of skin, and condition, that they will readily compare with the best Californian and French fruits. A better pear than these D'Anjou never entered the English markets, and I am confident that a big future lies before the Canadian pear trade in the United Kingdom. I was immensely pleased with these fruits, and prices realized, justified the recommendation I give them. With care in grading they would prove a very serious competitor to the French fruits, as the sample cases under notice were put in better style, and the fruits were certainly cleaner skinned, and much more dainty as eaters, than the foreign ones referred to.

PEACHES.

Then as to the peaches. These were Elberta. The fruits had been partly covered with paper in which a strip of wadding had been included, so as to protect the fruit from bruising. Under this method, when the lid of the box was taken off, and the layer of wadding removed, the tops of the fruits would be exposed to the view of the buyers. Here the specimens were in fairly good condition, but what would be termed perfect, the flesh of some being a little discolored. All in the box I had was, however, eatable, of excellent size, and like the apples and pears, and even graded, an important feature in the fruit trade here. The color was good, but the flesh was too firm, if I may expressively put it thus, they were needed to be sold in a day or two at least, not being in keeping condition. They were not so juicy as our forced peaches, but the flesh was firmer, and as an advocate of fruit-eating, I claim that these Canadian Elberta peaches are magnificent, and I should like to be able to live on them without anything else for a month. They are very delicious, possess a nutritious flesh, and should prove a great boon to the consumers in all of our cities and towns.

COMMENTS.

My report will be found most encouraging to those on your side who have taken a great interest in the development of the Canadian fruit industry, though the praise given to the packages and their contents is due to merit, and well-deserved. The Canadian fruit growers are to be congratulated upon having the fruit exported, trade, including packing, shipment and distribution, dealt with in such an admirable manner by the officials of the department of Agriculture at Ottawa. It is my decided opinion that at present the Canadian fruit exports are better put up and more efficiently handled than those from any other colony shipping to the United Kingdom, including Tasmania.

SAMPSON MORGAN.

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Of course you don't; so you should take Scott's Emulsion. It is a fact this remedy cures it; and it cures nervousness, nerve debility and insomnia also.

LABOR LAWS

Some of Those Passed by the Ontario Government.

Important enactments in the interests of the Working Classes.

In enumerating the laws placed on the statute book in the interests of labor, the Toronto Globe says:

The mechanics' lien act was passed in 1873, soon after the Liberal government assumed office, and it has been amended from time to time with a view to making it more simple and efficient. It safeguards, by a lien on the product, the rights of workmen and contractors who have furnished work or material in the erection of buildings or the construction of machinery. An act passed in 1883 provides that "every device by any owner or contractor, which shall be adopted in order to defeat the priority of wage-earners for their wages under the several acts relating to mechanics' liens, shall, as respects such wage-earners, be null and void." Another section gives police magistrates in cities jurisdiction to enforce the payment of wages for 30 days, or for a balance equal to 30 days, also to decide according to current wages where no specific rate has been agreed upon. In the consolidation of the law in 1885 there was included with the more important for wages and material are made to apply to insurance money in case the property subject to them is destroyed by fire. The lien is also given priority over all judgments and garnishments issued after it arises. The provision that owners retain 20 per cent of the value of work and material for 30 days after the completion of a contract is also so designated to secure wage-earners against loss. Many changes have been made in the law to facilitate concerted action by wage-earners and to cheapen the cost of such action.

The first act of the legislature to secure compensation to workmen for injuries sustained in the discharge of their duties was passed in 1886. It gives workers a claim for injury sustained in the discharge of their duties, or in the course of employment in authority, by conforming to the orders of employers in authority, by the operation of machinery, or by the negligence of railway signalmen. Provision is made against workmen relinquishing their rights under the act. In 1888 the act was amended to include persons employed in factories. It provided punishment by fine or imprisonment for the employing of a child, a young girl or a woman in a way that their health would be in danger of permanent injury. The employment of boys under 12 and girls under 14 was prohibited, and the hours of work were limited to ten a day or 60 per week. The act also contained specific requirements as to the sanitary condition of factories, the containing of fire escapes and means of extinguishing fire, and the guarding of machinery and other sources of danger. A later amendment to the act provided that children, under careful regulation, in canning factories during the summer months. By the railway accidents act of 1881 many special safeguards have been required. One of the most important measures affecting the relationship between employers and employees is the act of 1894, providing for the appointment of councils of conciliation and arbitration to act in industrial disputes. It provides for the reference of almost every kind of dispute between employers and employees to councils of conciliation, and for the reference of cases for award to councils of arbitration. Provision is made for the appointment of such councils, so that the interests of both parties may be represented. As in all such legislation, the unavoidable exercise of power of enforcement restricts the usefulness of this act, but it must be regarded as an important step in the direction of averting wasteful contests in adjusting the balance of supply and demand in the labor market. To limit the influence of foreign labor imported under contract it has been provided that agreements to work, when made outside the province, cannot be enforced after the workmen have been imported.

In 1892 there were special provisions made in the insurance laws for trades unions desirous of establishing sick benefits and death payments for their members, and in the same year the employment of women, girls and boys under 15 years of age in mines was absolutely prohibited. There were no less than seven special laws in the interest of labor passed in 1897. Disputed points were made clear in regard to the liability of railway companies for accidents to employees. Wages were made a first claim on the estates of deceased persons. Important changes were made in the law regarding councils of conciliation and arbitration, giving the lieutenant-governor in council and the mayors of cities and towns power to move where either party to a dispute failed to appoint a representative. Shops and places where more than 10 persons were employed, and factories were made subject to some of the provisions of the factory act. Such as the special provisions regarding bakeshops were extended to stores and other places of employment. The special provisions regarding bakeshops were extended to stores and other places of employment. The special provisions regarding bakeshops were extended to stores and other places of employment.

Several important amendments were made during the session of 1898. The workmen's lien for wages act was extended to new territory. Cities of over 100,000 inhabitants were authorized to extend the time of polling for municipal elections until 7 o'clock in the evening, a change in the same direction as the law giving workmen an hour at noon to cast their votes. During the last session the law regarding compensation for injuries was so amended as to put the onus of proof as to the condition of the machinery, structure or other causes of injury on the employers. It was also provided that in the winding up of estates and other settlements in which wages were a prior claim, they should become due and payable within one month. These are by no means all the laws which have been passed in the interest of labor during the Liberal regime in Ontario, but the list given is sufficiently comprehensive to show a consistent policy in favor of guarding the interest of wage-workers and preventing the development of class privileges or advantages. The policy has been carried out in administrative work. The nine-hour system, and in some cases the eight-hour system, have been introduced where mechanics and other skilled workmen are employed under the immediate direction of the public works department, and in many contracts provision made regarding the wages to be paid for the requisite labor.

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2 Blue and Black Kersey Cloth, satin lined, fly front.....	36	20.00	15.00
1 Black Kersey, Satin lined, fly front, welted seams.....	36	18.00	15.00
1 Fawn Kersey, satin lined, six pearl buttons.....	36	12.00	10.00
1 Castor Kersey, satin lined, inlaid velvet collar, eight pearl buttons.....	36	18.75	15.00
1 Blue Kersey, silk lined, ten pearl buttons.....	34	15.00	12.50
1 Fawn Kersey, silk lined, velvet collar, six pearl buttons.....	34	15.00	12.50
1 Fawn Kersey, fancy silk lined, fly front.....	36	22.00	17.00
1 Blue Kersey, fancy silk lined, black braided fly front.....	34	35.00	15.00
1 Green Kersey, satin lined, black cloth, fly front, storm collar.....	36	22.50	12.50
1 Electric Blue Kersey, satin lined, applique trimmed fly front.....	34	22.00	15.00
1 Green Kersey, satin lined, black braid pipings, tight fitting, six button.....	34	24.00	16.50
2 Brown Kerses, satin lined, black braid pipings, tight fitting, six buttons, 34 and.....	36	24.00	16.50
2 Blue Kerses, satin lined, black cord pipings, tight fitting, six buttons, 32 and.....	36	24.00	16.50
1 Fawn Kersey, satin lined, inlaid velvet collar, eight pearl buttons.....	36	18.75	15.00

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