

## ONTARIO POLITICS

In the South-West Toronto constituency of Ontario this week a Liberal candidate defeated a Conservative nominee and transformed a government majority of 4,000 into an opposition majority of 643. This event in a strongly conservative province leads *The Monetary Times*, which has never taken a part in partisan politics, to repeat what was stated in these columns after a similar event in the North Perth constituency of Ontario.

The Ontario government may easily discover the reasons which accounted for the defeat of their candidate by reading the heart of the rank and file. They are ignorant of or blind to the dissatisfaction of members of their own party and of voters at large. The Ontario cabinet has become a bureaucratic institution in a democratic country. That is the verdict of hundreds of Conservatives who will take the strongest possible measures, as they say themselves, "to teach the government a lesson." The dislike of bureaucracy is shared by the opposition and by independent voters who are becoming more numerous as years pass because of the unsatisfactory political state.

The same argument applies to federal politics and to politics in other provinces. The political machine has been running the country, the people being generally regarded as automatic parts of the machine to be cranked at will. While the blame for the present condition rests with the country at large, the time has come when the people are beginning to revolt. They do not like bureaucracy, or premiers (some without backbones, some without honesty), or bribery and corruption in high places, all of which they have had in the last few years in nauseating quantities. If politicians refuse to read the signs they will have to taste defeat at the polls. Defeat of such mistaken ideas of government is good for the country.

## INDIFFERENCE TO VITAL STATISTICS

People who would be extremely particular in seeing that valuable live stock is registered, are totally indifferent to the registration of their children. This statement is made in the Public Service Bulletin, published by the Ontario government, and which, among other things, describes the work of the registrar-general. Confirmation is found in this report of the statement frequently made by *The Monetary Times*, that the Canadian people and, to some extent, the authorities, show serious neglect in the matter of vital statistics. These records are of great importance but in this country they lack completeness and uniformity to a surprising extent. "Notwithstanding the fact that there are certain laws and penalties (in Ontario) regarding this very important matter, as well as free forms supplied by the department to facilitate such registration, it is remarkable that a fairly large number of people neglect the matter until threatened with the law," says the report.

Physicians are required by law to notify births which they attend. It is stated that the physician fails to do this "many times." The registrar-general's department then interferes and, as the report says, many a physician has recently been taught by legal conviction that this duty must be carried out. Our governments should not hesitate to exercise to the fullest extent the laws governing the registration of vital statistics.

## WESTERN CANADA'S REFUNDING SCHEME

The announcement that the British treasury will to-day withdraw its offer to purchase Manitoba and Saskatchewan securities at 80 plus accrued interest, in connection with the refunding plan of these provinces, is apparently an intimation that the scheme has not proved as successful as was anticipated. The treasury last month stated its desire to purchase these securities but the offer has held good for only a few weeks. The treasury's announcement this week confirms the view expressed in these columns on July 28th to the effect that it was unlikely that large holders of the securities concerned would sell at the price mentioned. The talk of \$36,000,000 of Canadian Western securities, now in London, coming on the New York market during the next few months, as was stated here at that time, should be accepted with reserve. The indications then were that the total amount would be relatively small. This impression is given strength by the British treasury's attitude this week.

It is to be hoped that this new development will counteract the disturbed conditions in the New York market, so far as Canadian securities are concerned—conditions caused by the rumors that a heavy volume of our Western securities were to be placed there.

## AGRICULTURE AND MARKETING

Some interesting sidelights were thrown upon the subject of farming at the recent rural conference in Edmonton. Deputy minister of agriculture Craig stated that only 4 per cent. of the cultivatable land of Alberta is at present in use, and he followed this statement with one that farming must be made more profitable and rural life more attractive in order to solve such problems as keeping the boy on the farm. That is a proper view which is slowly gaining ground. Not until governments recognize it and work assiduously to that end will the farmer get the best out of farming and the nation get the best out of the agricultural industry.

The poor methods of marketing constitute one of the drawbacks to the progress of farming. Mr. Craig drew attention, for instance, to such unscientific market processes as the shipping of timothy seed from Alberta to Toronto and the reshipping of some of it to British Columbia for sale. About 100,000 tons of seed were shipped in the grain from Alberta to the Great Lakes ports in one season. While most of these were good for feed, the farmer was allowed nothing for them. There was no loss to the consignees as most of the seeds were ground and sold to the farmers as fancy stock foods.

The industry of agriculture is shackled with poor marketing methods and poor facilities. No other industry would tolerate them for three months. While this factor stays, the price gap between the grower and the consumer will remain and the grower will not receive returns commensurate with the labor and the capital expended and the ability necessary to carry out his work.

## QUEBEC NEW GOOD ROADS LOAN

One of the chief questions which will be considered at the forthcoming session of the Quebec legislature will be the proposed new loan of \$10,000,000 for improvement of highways.