

THE BEE

R. S. PELTON, EDITOR.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1891.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

The battle is over. The struggle for supremacy is ended, and once again the strained political relationships between the people of Canada are being gradually adjusted and one and all are settling down to the every day peaceful routine of life. As will be seen elsewhere the Government has been sustained by a sufficiently strong majority, and Canada's Grand Old Man, who has directed the political affairs of our beloved Dominion for so many years, is again entrusted with the reins of power. It may well be said that as long as Sir John Macdonald continues at the head of the Conservative party the majority of the people of this country will stand by him. It is an old and often verified adage that "Nothing succeeds like success." This is particularly true of Sir John. For skill in mapping and carrying out a policy, for talent of organization, for a shrewd, accurate estimate of the public pulse and ability to stir the public heart and rouse enthusiasm, he is without a peer. It is simply child's talk to attribute his eminent success in the administration of the political affairs of this country to trickery, cunningness, bribery and corruption. Such taunts could only emanate from an unscrupulous and partizan press, or from narrow, selfish, small calibre minds, certainly not from men of lofty and noble conceptions of the elements of true greatness and statesmanship. It is a reflection on the common intelligence of the Canadian people to assume that Sir John Macdonald, or any other statesman, could retain power and control the destinies of the nation for over a quarter of a century through such base and deceptive tactics. The thing is absurd. We feel justly proud of our statesmen—men whose legislative ability is rarely attained by the best minds in the American Congress, even in Europe itself. The American press has frequently paid high tribute to Canadian statesmen and their system of government.

The great issue upon which the Liberal party hoped to carry the country was Unrestricted Reciprocity. It doubtless possesses redeeming features in its designed purposes in regard to bettering the trade relations between the two countries, and it also possesses some grave obstacles, notably direct taxation, and (as Hon. Edward Blake states in his letter to the electors of West Durham) would ultimately result in political absorption with the States. We cannot understand why it should result in political union, and therefore disagree with Mr. Blake on this point. However, leaving the pros and cons aside, Unrestricted Reciprocity is a thing out of keeping with practical politics. The reader will naturally enquire, "What remedy for the existing strained trade relations do you then propose?" At the present juncture we see no remedy, however much desired by either party. Yet, we may be assured the McKinley tariff is fast digging its own grave, and in a year or two at most it will have served its brief day if not its designed purpose. The Democratic party are gaining influence and power every day, and we may safely predict the overthrow of the Republicans in 1893. Indeed, the McKinley bill is becoming obnoxious to the tastes of the very men who passed it, and it will be no great surprise to learn of its overthrow under the present regime. Canada must have better commercial relations with the Republic, and the Conservative party are cognizant of this fact, the wiping out of their hitherto large Ontario and Quebec majorities have given unmistakable proof of the feeling along this line. While the Government have been sustained on a strict protective policy they readily feel the disastrous effects of the high American tariff, yet they do not wish to bow down to the coercive measures (if they be coercive) of Uncle Sam, and in this respect we admire the firm, unflinching attitude of the Government. We can live without Uncle Sam, and we will make no undue sacrifice of national pride and honor or commerce, however much we desire his friendship. Yes, we anticipate better commercial relations between the two countries at an early date. It must come, as both countries feel the dire effects of McKinleyism.

Hon. Edward Blake's letter on the trade question, which we will publish in "THE BEE" at a future date, is worthy the perusal of every Canadian, especially by the rising generation. While many Conservatives and Reformers, alike, may differ from some of his conclusions, all must admit that he deals with the

momentous question with the rare legislative ability, shrewd knowledge of political economy, and the matured consideration of a master mind. We admire the true gems of Canadian patriotism that characterize his latest literary effort—the finest we have yet seen from his pen. The signal success of the Conservative party in this and other campaigns may be attributed largely to the superior statesmanship and personal magnetism of Sir John Macdonald and the clearly defined and decided policy of the party. The Liberal party has suffered for the want of a leader in whom they have the utmost confidence and by their undefined policy. Leadership, a fixed policy, and thorough organization, are eminently essential in the success of any great movement, political or otherwise.

NORTH PERTH ELECTION.

The result of the polls on the evening of March 5th was likewise a surprise to both Liberals and Conservatives. North Perth has always been regarded as a stronghold of Conservatism, and the turn-over of 200 for Mr. Hesson in 1887 to 76 for Mr. Grievies in 1891 is difficult to account for, but a glance at the real circumstances in connection with the recent contest will throw light upon the subject. The fact that S. R. Hesson was unpopular with the party was painfully evident before his nomination, and life-long Conservatives gave vent to their convictions at the polls by voting, in some instances for the first time in their lives, for a Reformer. Mr. Hesson lost Orange votes in Elma because of his attitude toward the Jesuit question, and suffered defeat at the hands of not a few Catholic electors in Logan who were displeased at him voting for the Orange Incorporation Bill. But the trade question proved the most disastrous to the Conservative candidate, and on this question Mr. Grievies succeeded in sweeping the riding. Moreover, he is decidedly the most representative man of the two, and though he will be relegated to the cold Opposition benches we will expect him to render a good account of himself. Mr. Grievies may thank the Conservatives for his victory, and be it said to his credit he was sensible of the liberal support he received from the opposite party and heartily thanked them in a public demonstration at Listowel. The Liberals on the whole showed their good sense in refusing to allow party jubilation to rise to the disgust of their opponents, and bon-fires, torch-light processions, etc., were absent on the evening of March 5th.

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